



## Brooke challenged over tax relief on extortion payments

BY DAVID YOUNG

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, is to be asked why the Inland Revenue is to allow companies in the province to claim protection money paid to IRA and Loyalist paramilitary groups as a legitimate tax-deductible business expense.

David Trimble, Ulster Unionist MP, will raise the matter with Mr Brooke. He said: "It is outrageous that the taxpayer is now effectively subsidising terrorism. How can we on one hand ask businesses to stand firm against terrorism and then on the other hand allow protection money claimed has actually been paid?"

Mr Trimble, member for Upper Bann, added: "It would be impossible to quantify how much money is being paid out in Northern Ireland in extortion payments, but it is likely to run into millions of

pounds." In an internal memo to its Northern Ireland controller, the Inland Revenue says: "Expenditure can still be wholly and exclusively for the purposes of a trade even though the trader is acting illegally in incurring the expenditure."

Though payments to prevent attacks on shops, offices and factories could be classed as a legitimate business expense, money paid to protect individuals from harm does not count, the Inland Revenue has said. The memo concedes that there is no way of checking if money claimed has actually been paid.

Inland Revenue sources in Northern Ireland said they had not seen any accounts in which a business had put in a claim saying outright that protection money was being paid. Some have been classing protection money as pay-

ment for security, and claims to the taxman for security machinery or staff have been passed as acceptable as a business expense.

The Inland Revenue said that it would be up to each company to argue its case with their tax inspector. At least 12 companies are understood to have answered an appeal from Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, to tell his office if they are paying protection money.

Seamus Mallon, the deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and MP for Newry and Armagh, has also called for a detailed investigation.

After co-ordinated IRA bomb attacks on three big Belfast hotels on Saturday night, the chairman of the SDLP, Albin Maginness, said that the IRA was embarked on a scorched-earth

policy. "It is a whole strategy aimed at creating as much destruction and economic deprivation as possible," Mr Maginness said. "More people are out of work in a campaign designed to undermine the work of those rebuilding the city."

The future of the 90 employees of the Lansdowne Court Hotel was unclear yesterday as police combed through the wreckage of a fierce fire started by three hold-all bombs. The lounge and restaurant were crowded when a number of masked men who had held up security staff on the gate at gunpoint entered to plant the devices and shouted warnings before escaping.

Minutes before the North Belfast attack, a Hyundai car exploded in the car park of the Beachlawn Hotel on the south side of the city, where a wedding reception with nearly 200 guests was taking place. Although there was no warning, there were no casualties, and damage was relatively light.

At about the same time, another car bomb exploded at the Drumkeen Hotel in East Belfast, again causing only slight damage and no injuries. Hundreds of guests were also evacuated from the Europa Hotel in the centre of Belfast after a warning, but nothing was found.

An RUC spokesman said: "Such gangsterism cannot be tolerated in a civilised society."

WHILE politicians and the press were preoccupied yesterday with the alleged smear campaign against Neil Kinnock, the editor at the centre of the controversy admitted that the story had been overhyped.

Mr Kinnock found an unusual ally in *The Mail on Sunday*, which was critical of the *The Sunday Times* tele-

vision advertisements and posters proclaiming "Official Kinnock's Kremlin Connection." Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, all but agreed. "I think the billboards were inaccurate. I do not write the advertisements and they were done while I was in Washington. I think they overhyped the story. We didn't do that in the television ads which were checked by me and we cer-

tainly didn't do that in the paper." He defended his decision to run the report based on the findings of Tim Selsam, a former BBC Moscow correspondent.

*The Mail on Sunday* and *The Sunday Telegraph*, supporters of the Conservative party, said the article was based on notes doctored by Lev Parchin, director of intelligence-gathering at the Soviet embassy.

### Story overhyped, editor says

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Hammersley, Labour's deputy leader, writing in *The Times*, had criticised the *Daily Mail* in particular and the Tory tabloids in general. Ironically, he had exonerated *The Sunday Times*, pointing to its excoriation of Norman Lamont's chancellorship and praising its capacity for balanced argument and occasional heresy. He denounced the "corrupt compact" that existed between Conservative Central Office and its media friends and said that from now on he would confront political chicanery head on and expose the guilty scribbles.

"Tory editors and owners are going to hear the sound of me splitting into the wind."

Bolstered by such encouragement, Mr Hill might have gone "public" immediately. But he did not act alone. He phoned Mr Cunningham at his home near Newcastle upon Tyne, while Mr Kinnock's London office kept in touch with their leader.

At 4pm Mr Hill telephoned Mr Neil to ask about the nature of the story and came away with the impression that the editor was being "disingenuous." Mr Neil regarded the material unearthed in the Kremlin's files as fascinating stuff but denied that it was a cause for concern for Mr Kinnock. Newspaper placards trumpeting "Kinnock - the Kremlin connection" told a different story in Labour eyes.

At 5pm on Friday, the die was cast. Mr Hill spoke to Mr Kinnock and got his blessing for a pre-emptive strike. He also spoke to Mr Hattersley. There was "absolute unanimity" that it was time to take the Tory press head on. Mr Hill said yesterday.

An hour later, selected political correspondents were given Mr Hill's denunciation of the planned "smear campaign". By evening, reporters from *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Independent*, *Daily Mirror* and *Financial Times* began breaking the story. Labour was not so much spitting into the wind as turning it into a torrent on the elements.

It has become a common-place to suggest that the election will be the dirtiest in living memory. Labour has called "foul" first, and transformed a story about what Mr Kinnock did in the Cold War into one about the motives of much of Fleet Street, making broadcasters doubly careful about rehearsing the tabloid line. The referee is going to be busy.

## Mellor skirts VAT question

A refusal by David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, to rule out any widening in the scope of value-added tax was seized on by Labour yesterday to revive its charge that the government has a hidden agenda for indirect taxation (Nicholas Wood writes).

The Opposition's "Vatman" poster campaign, insisting that ministers secretly intend to push up VAT to 22 per cent, has been overshadowed by John Major's unequivocal pledge in the Commons that the rate will not be raised from its present 17½ per cent over the lifetime of the next Parliament. However, Mr Mellor's refusal to give an equivalent pledge on the possibility of extending VAT to zero-rated items, such as children's clothing and food, provoked a renewed attack.

Questioned by David Frost on TV-am, Mr Mellor fell back on the standard Treasury line that the government had "no plans" to widen the VAT base. "Chancellors have always been reluctant to totally rule out things because nobody knows what is round the corner," he said. The Labour party said: "Mr Mellor has made a most extraordinary admission. By using the phrase 'no plans' he is making it clear that the government is now seriously thinking about widening the scope of VAT."

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### EC aid dispute

Bruce Millan, the Brussels commissioner blocking £900 million of EC aid for Britain's poorest regions, was accused yesterday of double standards by Edward McMillan-Scott, MEP for York. The Tory, who will see John Major today, said he had discovered that Italy was receiving £5 billion in EC assistance while applying the same rules on distribution as those that had held up Britain's share.

### Obscenity plea

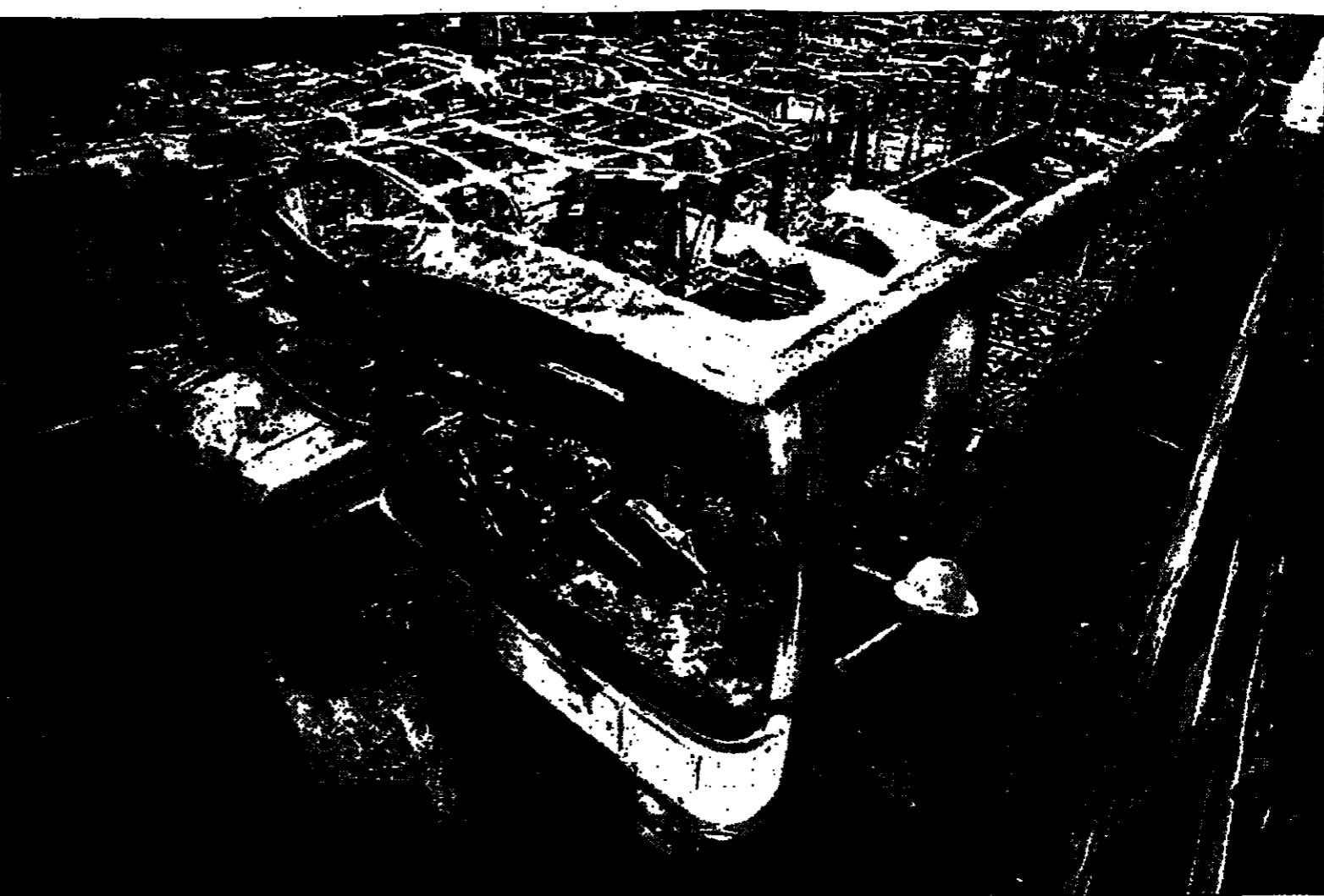
The Court of Appeal will be asked this week to decide whether consenting participants in sadomasochism can properly be brought before the courts. Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, with Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Potts, will today begin hearing appeals by seven men sentenced at the Central Criminal Court in 1990 for obscenity and violence against each other and themselves.

### Glasgow goes

The *Glasgow Herald*, so named in 1805 after foundation in 1783 as the *Glasgow Advertiser*, drops the name of its home city from its title. Arnold Kemp, editor of *The Herald*, which sold on average 120,468 copies a day last year, said: "The change reflects our substantial growth in circulation and our intention to consolidate *The Herald's* position as Scotland's leading newspaper."

### CORRECTION

On the front page of Weekend Times on January 25, the spelling and location of Bushy Park, the royal park next to Hampton Court in southwest London, was inadvertently given as Bushy Park, Hertfordshire.



Burnt out: some of the 18 vehicles destroyed as fire wrecked a bus depot, causing damage estimated at £2 million. Police are treating the fire as suspicious. The fire at the Midland Red depot in Stafford began at about 1am yesterday

### Kinnock and the Kremlin

## Why Labour shouted 'foul'

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The *Sunday Times* on his Sunday morning radio chat show. Another clue came from a leaked internal memorandum from Nick Sheldon, the paper's circulation manager, which alerted his staff to a forthcoming controversial story about a political leader.

Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaigns chief, and Mr Kinnock were out of town on Friday. But Mr Hill, aged 43, had little doubt about his next move. On Tuesday, Roy

Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, writing in *The Times*, had criticised the *Daily Mail* in particular and the Tory tabloids in general. Ironically, he had exonerated *The Sunday Times*, pointing to its excoriation of Norman Lamont's chancellorship and praising its capacity for balanced argument and occasional heresy. He denounced the "corrupt compact" that existed between Conservative Central Office and its media friends and said that from now on he would confront political chicanery head on and expose the guilty scribbles.

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## Reynolds tipped for Haughey job

BY JAMIE DETTMER

A FORMER manager of a string of dance halls in Ireland has emerged as the favourite to step into Charles Haughey's shoes as leader of the governing Fianna Fail party and Irish prime minister.

Albert Reynolds, one of Mr Haughey's sterner critics, is poised for victory when Fianna Fail deputies vote for a new leader on Thursday after Bertie Ahern, the Irish finance minister, indicated yesterday that he would not enter the contest.

Mr Ahern, who was Mr Haughey's preferred choice for the leadership, made his decision after a long meeting with Mr Reynolds on Saturday night. The two men are believed to have drawn up a pact detailing what cabinet job Mr Ahern would get. Mr Reynolds is said to have agreed to a drive against unemployment, which stands in the republic at 20 per cent.

Mr Haughey will resign immediately before Thursday's leadership ballot. He announced his intention last week after public dispute over allegations about his part in a ten-year-old tele-

phone tapping scandal. Mr Reynolds, a pet-food millionaire, will still face a challenge in the leadership ballot from Mary O'Rourke, the health minister, but few commentators believe she has enough deputies behind her to secure victory. The Reynolds camp yesterday claimed it had the support of 40 out of 77 deputies.

□ Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, said yesterday on ITV's *Walder* programme that he was confident that peace talks in Ulster would resume after the general election.



Reynolds: struck deal with nearest rival

## Agency aims to fill empty homes

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

AN AGENCY to bring at least 20,000 empty properties into use for the homeless over the next two years will be launched today by Sir George Young, the housing minister. The Empty Homes Agency will act as a broker, bringing the owners of some of England's 760,000 empty houses and flats into contact with housing associations and other agencies.

There is no public or private body whose job is to introduce owners of property to users of property." Antony Fletcher, an environment department consultant on empty homes and a founder of the agency, said: "Empty homes are an affront to the homeless and those in need of a good home. These are wasted assets and opportunities for people to live in decent conditions."

The agency was aimed at corporate property owners, rather than individuals, he said. It would advise owners and users, and produce legal agreements. "We are thinking particularly of retail chains, government departments or developers who have large stocks of property who do not know how they can be

used. Keeping homes empty is bad business and it is not cheap."

Changes in the 1988 Housing Act, which had ended protected tenancies and set up assured shorthold tenancies, meant owners felt happy to let, as they knew that they could remove tenants if need be. Mr Fletcher said: "Renting used to have a bad image, but that has changed."

He cited the City Road Mission in London as an example of what could be achieved. Two years ago, the property, owned by a private developer, was almost derelict. Only five of its 100 rooms were occupied. Four months later, 45 flats were occupied after a partnership deal was set up with St Mungo's Housing Association. The project has provided shelter to 200 people.

The new agency is backed by Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, Jim Coulter, director of the National Federation of Housing Associations, and Mark Scithem, director of Crisis. It has funding from charitable organisations, including the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

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## Moscow's radical police chief visits the Yard

FROM BRUCE CLARK  
IN MOSCOW

THE head of the Moscow police is to visit Scotland Yard this week to find out whether a policeman's lot is happier in London than in the Russian capital.

Arkadi Murashev, aged 33, was named head of the Moscow police department last September. His previous dealings with the forces of law and order had largely been confined to tense negotiations ahead of anti-Communist street demonstrations that he was organising. His appointment was the most spectac-

ular among a flurry of promotions of liberals and radicals to establishment posts which took place after last August's failed coup.

A physicist with a schoolboy grin, Mr Murashev's first action at the barracks from which he commands the 120,000-strong Moscow force was to consult his own file. He was not displeased to find himself described as a "typical neo-Bolshevik... with exceptional organisational abilities".

In office, the former co-ordinator

of the inter-regional parliamentary group headed by Boris Yeltsin and Andrei Sakharov has proved to be a policeman. He has sought to mitigate the resentment of professional police officers by fighting hard for extra resources and higher salaries on behalf of a force whose pay and conditions are poor by international standards.

Mr Murashev will be looking for help with training and technology when he meets his counterparts in the Metropolitan Police after a week in Cambridge with his old friend, the dissident Vladimir Bukovsky.

The Russian proposes to tell his opposite numbers that all western countries, including Britain, have an

interest in Moscow becoming a place which it is safe to visit and do business in. He also wants to learn about Britain's experience in race relations — and its relevance to a city where racial tension is increasing. One of the first crises he had to defuse in Moscow was a strike by taxi drivers, demanding that all trans-Caucasians be expelled.

Mr Murashev's wife Olga, founder of a new charity which looks after the widows of policemen killed in action, hopes to visit the 122-year-old Metropolitan Police widows and orphans fund at its offices in Putney.

## The abduction of Stephanie Slater

## Police link kidnapper with threat to BR

BY CRAIG SETON AND STEWART TENDER

POLICE confirmed yesterday that the man who kidnapped Stephanie Slater and is suspected of murdering Julie Dart last year is also being sought for trying to blackmail British Rail by threatening to derail a passenger train.

A demand for £150,000, with a threat to sabotage an InterCity train somewhere in the North, was delivered to British Rail headquarters in London last autumn, Scotland Yard confirmed.

The blackmailer delivered part of his instructions for a payment from British Rail by attaching his message to a large piece of stone left dangling over a railway bridge in the Midlands.

Scotland Yard's section of the regional crime squad net-

work has been leading the hunt for the blackmailer in an operation codenamed Orient, lead by Det Chief Supt Pat Fleming. Officers throughout the country have been involved in the hunt.

Yesterday, police disclosed that the man may also have been involved in seven or eight failed attempts at extortion involving threats to contaminate food in supermarkets and food stores.

Scotland Yard sources said the threat to attack a specific line had been taken very seriously. The blackmailer had included a diagram of how he could carry out his threat. He wanted two police officers to carry the cash in used bank notes and stand on a platform at Crewe near a call box. The

time for the handover was given in the personal column of a national newspaper. The police officers went to the platform. The telephone rang, but the caller hung up. A second attempt at a rendezvous failed. The calls are said to have been traced to the Sheffield area.

Yesterday, there was consternation in police ranks that details of the blackmail attempt had been leaked. There may now be friction between, and within, forces over how or why it was disclosed.

Tom Cook, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, who is leading the joint investigations with West Midlands police into the abduction of the estate agent Stephanie Slater from Birmingham and the kidnapping and murder of Julie Dart, aged 18, last year, said yesterday: "There are possible links between our enquiries and the demand delivered to British Rail."

Police believe that there may be links that demand and the Dart case because of similarities in the way that demands were couched and instructions attached. There is suspicion that the blackmailer he may have tried to make at least one other large demand on a major company. The possibility that the man has made serious threats before an attempt to extort money has increased fears that he may strike again.

Miss Slater, aged 25, was kidnapped on January 22 when she kept an appointment with a middle-aged man calling himself "Bob Southwall" at a house for sale at Great Barr, Birmingham.

She was released on Thursday after being held for eight days by a man who made threats against her life and who escaped with a £175,000 ransom, in spite of a West Midlands police operation involving 1,000 officers from six forces. He collected the ransom on Wednesday night from a lonely, fogbound spot near Barnsley, West Yorkshire, after Kevin Watts, Miss Slater's manager, left it on disused railway bridge.

West Midlands police have refused to confirm that the money was placed on a tray, which the abductor pulled from the bridge and into a cutting 50ft below using a length of fishing or rope. Police are almost certain Miss Slater's kidnapper is the man who abducted Miss Dart, aged 18, from Leeds last year. Her body was found near Grantham, Lincolnshire. A ransom demand for £140,000 had been made.

Poison threat, page 1

## How police create profile of killer

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

POLICE searching for the kidnapper of Stephanie Slater, the estate agent, and the killer of Julie Dart, the teenager, are using the techniques of psychological profiling to build up a picture of the man believed to be responsible for both crimes.

The profile they have drawn up portrays a man who enjoys engaging the police in a battle of wits in which the victim is merely a device for attracting attention. The fact that Miss Slater escaped with her life tends to confirm that murder is not the man's main motivation.

The two crimes may be linked to earlier failed attempts at extortion. Tom Cook, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, said yesterday. Mr Cook, who is heading joint enquiry into the murder and kidnapping, said most of the earlier incidents were blackmail attempts against large firms.

The technique of psychological profiling tries to identify common features in the behaviour of known offenders and tie them to evidence from the crime being investigated. In the Dart case, the profile suggests that the killer lives alone and is technically skilled.

The profiling technique has been pioneered by the FBI's behavioural science unit and by Professor David Canter, a psychologist at Surrey University. The FBI team began its investigations by interviewing some of America's most notorious killers, includ-



Net loss: David Rees, whose family have been fishing from coracles on the river Towy since 1620

## Coracle men sunk by licence increase

BY TIM JONES

THE last coracle fishermen in Britain say that greed is forcing them out of business.

For decades, a small band of men in southwest Wales have manoeuvred their unlikely cockleshell craft on the Towy and Teifi rivers in Dyfed, to harvest the salmon and sea trout which head upstream to spawn.

Hearing dark rumours that they are being priced out to make way for rich English anglers, the coracle men are to petition David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, to ask him to prevent planned increases in their licence fees. Their action follows a National Rivers Authority decision to increase the licence fee on the Towy from £380 to £420 on March 1. St David's day. Five years ago, it was £45.

Only 25 men are now licensed to fish from coracles, operating in pairs to suspend a net across the river. The occupation requires a great deal of skill although the lath and calico baskets are far more resilient than they look.

David Rees, one of the petitioners, said: "Members of my family have been on the river at least since 1620 and it seems we are now being driven out by the NRA."

The NRA said it was nonsense to suggest that there was any plot to price the coracle men off the river.

## Fine art world combines to stop thefts

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

THE proliferation of international art thefts soon could be checked after an initiative by members of the British fine art world.

The Council for the Prevention of Art Theft (Copat) will be headed by Sir Thomas Ingilby, of Ripley Castle, North Yorkshire, who has already set up the highly effective "Stately Homes Hotline" whereby owners contact each other when burglars have struck. Members will include Philip Saunders, the managing director of Trace, the privately run art theft circular on

which the police and insurance industry increasingly depend, and Mark Dalrymple, a fine art loss adjustor. Det Chief Supt Peter Gwynn, of the City of London police, will represent the police.

Works of art worth an estimated £2 billion are stolen in this country annually, and hardly any are retrieved, largely because of the lack of co-ordinated intelligence between police forces. Only nine out of 51 forces have special art squads, and there is no central computerised list of stolen objects for the police.

The rest of Europe does not do much better. France has 60 specialist officers, but The Netherlands has one and Spain none, and different countries have different laws on rights of title. In Britain, title tends to stay with the original owner, in Switzerland, it can pass if the item is sold at auction, and in Japan if the new owner holds on to the item for five years.

After a year in which antique shops throughout the country have been raided and half a dozen removal vans stolen, members of Copat have started to campaign for the clarification and harmonisation of international laws on the sale and ownership of stolen items. They are also lobbying to eliminate the system whereby under English law title for goods can pass if they are sold in certain street markets, and to review the present system whereby rewards are paid to informants after an art robbery.

• The first International Yearbook of Stolen Art has been published privately in France. The 1,100-page book is packed with pictures and descriptions of stolen items from all over the world. Notable examples include the Tate Gallery's portrait of Francis Bacon by Lucien Freud. The project is the initiative of Martin Monestier, a French author whose titles include *Collective Suicide through History* and *The Effects of Music on Plants*. He says he is fascinated by the art works that have disappeared from their rightful homes. The book is being distributed in this country by Trace Publications of Plymouth, at £65.

## Lords may revolt over education

BY JOHN O'LEARY  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that two-year degrees might be imposed on British universities are expected to prompt a new revolt in the House of Lords tonight against the government's higher education reforms.

Ministers have re-drafted amendments to the Further and Higher Education Bill to avoid charges of endangering academic freedom by giving themselves too much power over universities.

Lord Belstead, the paymaster general, had to agree to reconsider the original proposals to avoid a defeat at the report stage. New clauses to be introduced at tonight's third reading will satisfy vice-chancellors' demands that intervention should be restricted to cases of financial mismanagement. However, the government is gambling that the Lords will leave intact the proposed powers over course lengths.

The bill is already in danger of running out of time in the event of an April election, delaying the polytechnics' acquisition of university status and endangering the separation of further education colleges from local authorities.

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## Art-buyer is stung by a fake fake

BY TONY DAWE

A pawnbroker has become the victim of the ultimate art world irony. He bought a painting by Britain's best-known forger only to find that it is itself a fake.

The London pawnbroker, whose identity has not been disclosed, handed over £1,500 for a landscape bearing the signature "Tom Keating" believing he had got a bargain because he had acknowledged fakes by Keating and some of his original paintings have sold for several thousand pounds.

The painting, of a typical river scene in Dedham Vale, Essex, where Keating lived until his death eight years ago, carried a certificate say-

ing it had fetched £17,000 at a sale of Keating's work. Phillips the auctioneers has discovered that the painting was not included in that sale.

Michael Wright, their Keating expert, also decided the painting was not genuine. "It just doesn't look competent enough," he said.

The pawnbroker sought a second opinion from John Brandon, a Keating specialist and gallery owner at Brentwood, Essex. He said: "It is atrocious, and the signature is not even accurate."

This first documented example of a fake Keating will frighten the art world, which has foreseen the problem of judging the authenticity of

work by an artist who spent most of his career forging other people's paintings.

This is likely to turn into a very successful line of business," Brian Sewell, the art critic, said. "Some modern painters think that if they take an Old Master and do it badly enough, they can pass it off as a Keating. But his fakes were good enough to convince people in many leading museums."

Keating's paintings are not expected to have a "history" because of his unorthodox career. So the arrival of unknown work by him would create less suspicion than the arrival of an unrecorded Old Master. Keating is also at

Take a look at this building. Have you ever seen anything quite like it?

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Photo: Courtesy of Corinne Turner

## By the look of these flats, the builder must have been blind.

self contained flats for blind people, we helped the contractor understand the problems blind people have getting around a conventional building.

So on every wall there is a guide rail, to help blind and visually impaired people move around more freely.

Milk bottle holders halfway up the wall, ensure that blind people aren't driven up the wall by constantly stumbling over bottles.

Indeed all the corridors are kept free of furniture and clutter to prevent them becoming obstacle courses.

Whilst the upright poles you can see on the outside of the building are erected so the blind residents can count them to locate their own front doors. Everywhere you look, the needs of blind people have been carefully considered, with braille fire precautions provided for their safety, for instance.

The same is true of the stairs, with each step painted with a line of contrasting colour, to assist those people with residual vision.

Swail House enables them to carry on day to day living with the minimum of assistance and therefore, lead a far more independent life.

If only the same could be said of places meant for the general public,



which often seem to display a total lack of consideration towards blind people.

Here, at Action for Blind People, we believe these attitudes are long overdue for change.

To improve matters, we have assisted architects and planners, by getting involved with the planning of public buildings, like shopping centres and industrial complexes, long before they reached the drawing board.

Introducing simple provisions such as textured paving, boldly lettered signs and many of the safety features predominant in Swail House, caused them no great hardship.

However, they can save great hardship for all blind and partially sighted people, who, without such help,

find it extremely difficult to move around unhindered.

If there is any way in which you think we can assist you, or you have a blind friend or relative who needs any help or information, please call us on 071 732 8771 and ask for Tony Gillar.

Positive action is always our prime objective, as our name implies.

A name we attempt to live up to in the swiftest and most effective ways.

That can often mean confronting long held misconceptions of the abilities and capabilities of blind people.

Obviously, it isn't blindness which prevents them from getting around without assistance.

It's short-sightedness.



Blindness is the least of our problems

Action for Blind People

# Spending curbs land thrifty Wigan with 20% poll tax rise

BY DOUGLAS BROOME, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS by the government to restrain local council spending are about to backfire by pushing up poll tax bills in some of the poorest parts of England.

While non-payment is expected to add an average of 8 per cent to the government's target of £257 a head for the year starting in April, spending curbs are likely to increase bills by between 19 and 35 per cent. Local authorities in the North-West and Yorkshire will be worst affected by the government's refusal to increase so-called standard spending assessments for some councils in line with inflation.

Before the introduction of the poll tax, councils were able to compensate for shortfalls in grant by comparatively modest rises in domestic and business rates which accounted for roughly half their income. Today councils are almost wholly reliant on the government which controls 85 per cent of their income through grants and centrally determined business rates.

Increasing the poll tax, which accounts for only 15 per cent of council income, to cover a shortfall leads to sharper rises in bills than under the rates.

Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, St Helens, Wakefield and Wigan have said that the poll tax will have to rise by more than 10 per cent to compensate for lower than expected rises in government grant. Rochdale is predicting a 35 per cent rise from £249 to £335 and Sheffield 30 per cent. Wigan is likely to have to

put its £268 poll tax up by 20 per cent to about £320, in spite of poll tax capping.

Wigan has become a by-word for the inadequacy of the grant system. Praised by ministers and the Audit Commission for its efficiency, the borough council has had to make £37 million worth of cuts in the past two years. It has been forced to shed 1,250 staff from a workforce already smaller than the national average and spends less on services than many Conservative councils. It also has one of the best records of poll tax collection.

This year the council, run by Labour moderates, is spending £899 per person on local services compared to £1,448 in neighbouring Labour-controlled Manchester. Last year it was placed twelfth in a league table of GCSE results in spite of spending £510 head on its schools, compared to Manchester's £705.

For all its parsimony the council's spending assessment will increase in April by just 4.6 per cent, which is almost three percentage points below the national average. While Manchester will be allowed to spend £1,488 per adult, Wigan will be allowed just £898.

As a result the Labour group on the council meets tonight to decide on a package of cuts expected to total £15 million. More than 750 of the council's 14,000 staff are also likely to lose their jobs.

Wigan's difficulties stem from the fact that its social

problems are not the ones that the government measures when setting spending limits. Unemployment in the borough is 10.2 per cent, among the highest in any metropolitan area. The area has the second worst mortality rate of any urban area, largely due to the legacy of mining and the cotton industry. Work-related illness means that many men in their 50s are retired and in need of services such as home help.

The spending assessment formula takes no account of those factors. It gives weight to criteria such as the number of new Commonwealth immigrants and one-parent families. Wigan has few such people in either category.

Peter Smith, the council's leader, said: "We are suffering because the spending assessment formula takes no account of what we need to spend. We cannot change to fit the formula. It must be changed to fit us." Philip Grayling, the council treasurer, said: "The problem is not high spending. It is an impossibly low standard spending assessment."

The environment department said: "The government is in a better position to look at the national position in terms of how much the country can afford and how it should be distributed."



Dented pride: the Jaguar XJ220 after its painful but necessary trip into a brick wall

## Technical curiosity vindicates the cat

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THIS is what happens when you smash the world's most expensive production car into a brick wall at 30mph. This picture should reassure buyers who have paid a £50,000 deposit for the £340,000 Jaguar XJ220 that they will own a car with the endurance and toughness of a fully-fledged racing car.

It was taken at the Motor Industry Research Association, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, where all cars on sale in Britain have to undergo the simple, but revealing

test. Richard Owen, the project's chief engineer, used the racing experience of the company's world championship-winning JaguarSport team to design a car capable of withstanding powerful impacts. For some manufacturers, the test has proved difficult. One car maker is reputed to have sacrificed 30 prototypes before passing.

Jaguar's prototypes are made of a complex honeycombed aluminium structure used widely in aircraft and racing cars. The

engineers' brief was to design the world's fastest car — already tested at 212.3mph — and bring the best aerodynamic and racing safety features to a road car.

What is learnt at JaguarSport's small factory at Boddam, near Banbury, Oxfordshire, during the building of the XJ220 is being passed on to Jaguar's designers at its Coventry headquarters and could appear on more familiar models in years to come. In the XJ220 an aluminium and

steel cage surrounds driver and passenger. Required to withstand a pressure of 1.5 times its own 1.7 tonnes, engineers stopped testing when they passed ten tonnes.

In the test, the impact was absorbed by the front of the car. The windscreen remained intact, the doors opened and the headlamps worked. Inside, the steering column had moved only half an inch.

Feral beast  
L&T section, page 1

## Work on Globe to resume

BY SIMON TATT  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE NEXT phase of recreating Shakespeare's Globe playhouse near where it stood four centuries ago at Southwark, south London, is to begin this month, even though all the money needed for the work has not yet been raised.

Sam Wanamaker, the American actor and director who has worked on the venture for 12 years, has ordered that construction work begin after getting agreement from trustees of the appeal.

Sir David Orr, chairman of the Shakespeare Globe Theatre Trust, said the recession had hit the Globe Appeal, causing a delay of 18 months since phase one foundations were completed.

The second phase will create a museum and a hall for an exhibition on the Shakespearean age. The theatre is to be built in the third phase. The appeal is for £8.5 million. A further £3.5 million is to be sought for the theatre.

## Robinson to visit Ulster

MARY Robinson, the Irish president, is expected to pay her first official visit to Belfast tomorrow, although officials in Belfast and Dublin are saying nothing for security reasons.

The Northern Ireland office is also anxious that her visit should not be marred by demonstrations.

Although Mrs Robinson has expressed sympathy for the unionist viewpoint and is well regarded by many loyalists, supporters of Ian Paisley are certain to protest at any such visit as long as the republic maintains its constitutional claim to Ulster.

On her election Mrs Robinson said she was anxious to visit the north but has crossed the border only once since then, for the installation at Armagh of the Primate of All Ireland, Cardinal Cañal Daly. She sat with Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, for the rugby international in Dublin on January 18 and with the prime minister John Major at Twickenham on Saturday.

## Adverts bring more to church

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CONGREGATIONS in the Church of England's Oxford diocese grew by up to a quarter following an advertising campaign over Christmas.

One third of the clergy were asked to compare church attendance with the previous Christmas. They reported an average increase of 17.5 per cent, with up to 25 per cent more people in some churches.

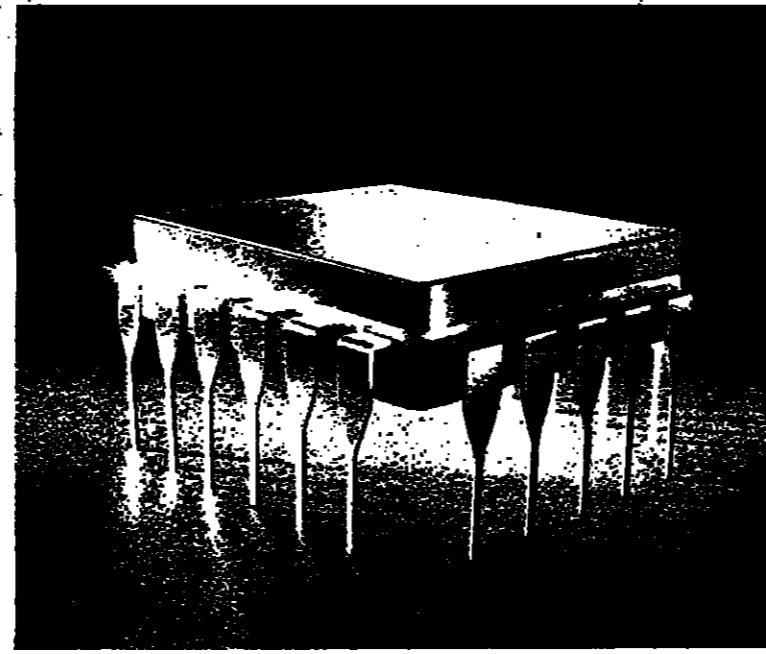
One vicar wrote: "We will have to revise our Christmas programme if we are going to continue to get such large numbers. Overall attendance was enormous: 220 at the crib service and 145 at midnight, and we can only seat 125."

The diocese advertised on radio and in newspapers, and on posters and car stickers. The campaign was praised by George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Rev Richard Thomas, one of the organisers, said: "There is no doubt that advertising helped get our message across, but this increase is part of a growing trend across all denominations and in all areas of the country."

The reversal in the decline of the church in Oxford began more than three years ago. Between 1988

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**SOUTHERN ELECTRIC**

## Bail hostel staff hold ballot after attacks

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

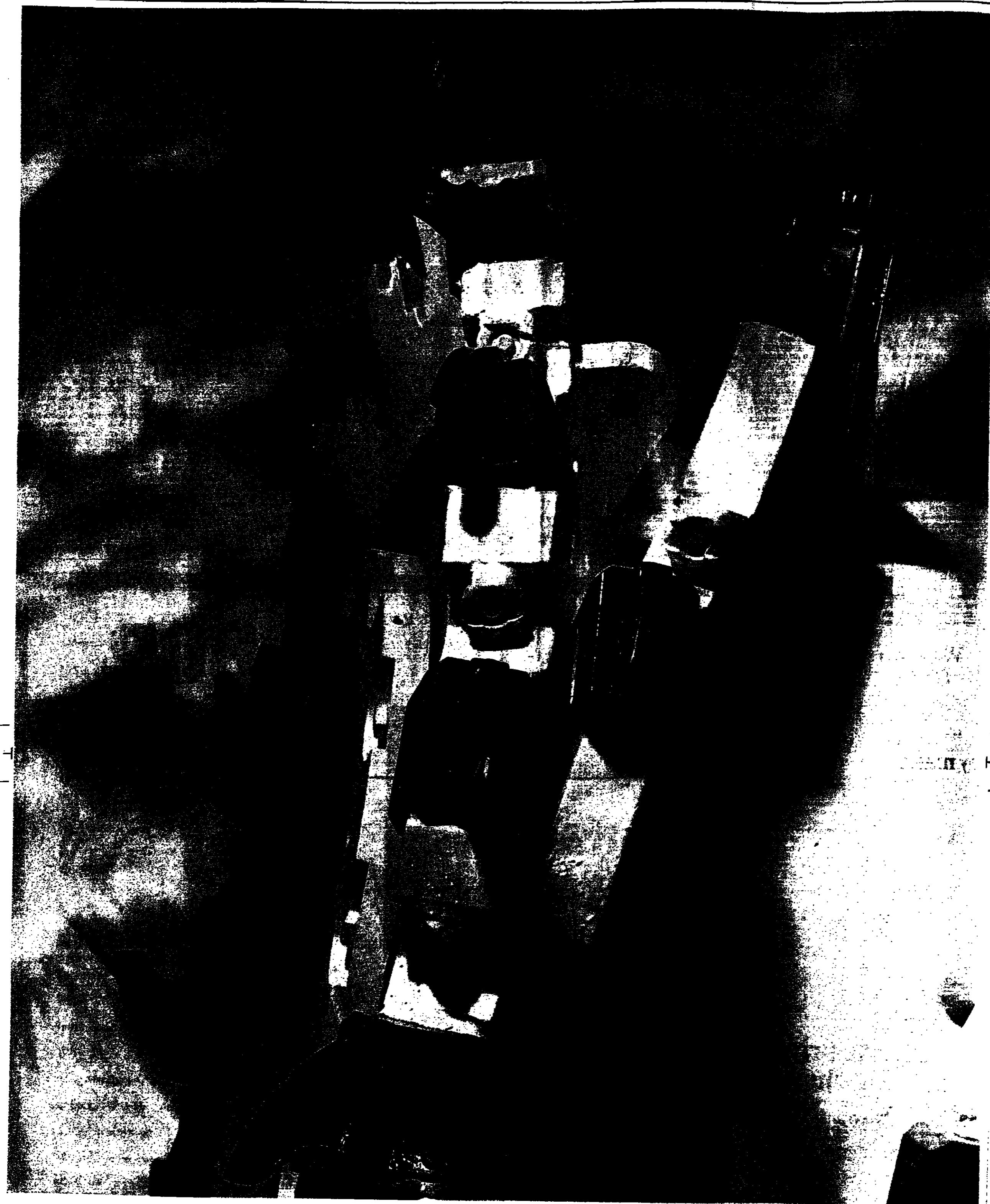
PROBATION officers are to be balloted on industrial action over staffing in hostels for offenders and people on bail.

Probation officers are demanding that at least two members of staff be on duty in the hostels after increases in assaults on staff, criminal damage, abusive behaviour and drunkenness. Incidents most often occur at night, when many hostels have only one member of staff on duty.

According to an analysis of 203 reported incidents at 12 hostels in the past two years, there were 25 assaults on staff with iron bars or pieces of wood. The survey, by the National Association of Probation Officers, found 48 assaults on residents in fights.

Officers are to be asked to support action in which they would refuse to refer offenders to hostels without two members of staff on duty at all times. There are more than 100 hostels providing 2,400 places in England and Wales, and a further 1,200 places are expected to be provided in a government drive for more punishment to be in the community, instead of jail. The association says that members will be more at risk as the service begins dealing with more serious offenders.

Last night, the Home Office said that while it was concerned about attacks on staff in bail hostels, most of them had seven supervisory staff, up from five three years ago.



## Bacon slicers, microwaves and blenders. No modern miner would be without them.

We call it the 'Bacon Slicer'. When it comes face to face with coal, there's no question who wins. But it's the way we use this technology that makes us 40% more efficient than our nearest European rivals. So you can imagine, we're happy to supply our miners with all the mod cons.

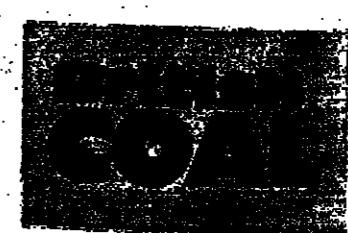
As well as the latest heavy duty machinery, we use

computer technology normally employed by airlines and in your microwave oven to help run our pits more efficiently. Every machine is geared to improve the quality of the coal we supply and the speed at which we supply it. All to ensure our customers get what they order.

Combined with the positive attitude that everyone at British Coal shares about the business of producing

coal, technology has contributed to our recent success — best illustrated by the fact that we keep breaking every British and European productivity record ever set. And last year, it helped us break into profit.

So every time our miners turn on a Bacon Slicer, they know it's more than a machine they're starting up, it's a business.



THE ENERGY TO SUCCEED



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## Victim wins battle for interest on injury cash

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A RAILWAY worker who had to wait 22 months for payment of compensation that had been awarded for injuries suffered in an attack has been granted £1,330 interest by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for the delay.

The case, thought to be the first in which interest has been granted, is being treated by lawyers as setting a precedent which could give rise to similar applications for interest from the large numbers of cases awaiting determination by the board.

Gerald Glover, of Newport, Gwent, finally received his cheque for an award of £4,335 more than five years after the attack in which his shoulder was injured, and 22 months after his application was dealt with by the board.

The delay occurred because the cheque was posted to the wrong address. However, it took 14 letters to the board from his solicitor and trade union, the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, as well as several telephone calls, before the mistake was rectified.

On receipt of the cheque, the solicitor, Adrian Bouler, and Brewer, lodged an application in the High Court for judicial review, claiming interest on the £4,335.

At the hearing last October, the court ruled that Mr Glover, who was injured by an unidentified attacker when working in shunters' accommodation in 1985, was not entitled to further compensation for the delay. The judge said he could find no legal error in the board's decision. Mr Bouler lodged an appeal.

### Landscape 'blighted by masts'

Thousands of towers and masts planned for the telecommunications industry are threatening the rural landscape, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Association of District Councils say.

Government proposals to relax planning controls ignore widespread public concern, they say. The proposals put forward in a consultation paper last September include raising the height limits for which planning permission is not required from 15 to 20 metres, relaxing controls over antennae on buildings, and facilitating the construction of new buildings.

"Towers and masts are insidiously eroding the beauty of our rural landscape," the council says.

### Airfield closed

Goodwood airfield, near Chichester, West Sussex, will be closed for five days as soldiers clear 15 pipe mines laid under the runway during the second world war.

### Photo call

A personal advertisement in a local newspaper in Taunton, Somerset, reads: "Lady farmer, 15 acres, seeks friendship, male farmer with own tractor. Please send photograph of tractor."

### Card sharp

Creighton Carvello, aged 47, of Cleveland, has claimed a record for memorising a shuffled pack of cards. He took two minutes and 17 seconds.

### View from top

A firm of architects has put forward plans for a tourist observation platform on 270 ft high Dixon's Chimney, the Carlisle landmark.

### Bond winners

Premium Bond winners this week: £100,000, bond 3FP 540613, from Essex, £75 holding, £50,000, 5C2 380404, Hampshire, £9,996, £25,000, 7DS 044619, Northumberland (£4,000).

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ANDREW HASSON

Damp course: Captain Neil Rankin, commanding officer of HMS Ark Royal, with his ship which is to be refitted today after being in dry dock at Portsmouth naval base since early December.

The ship has undergone a docking and assisted maintenance period, known as Damp, which involves repainting, repairs and the replacement of equipment. Captain Rankin described it as the equivalent of

a car's 12,000-mile service, except that the Ark Royal covered about 250,000 miles between services. The cost is expected to be disclosed later. Captain Rankin, aged 51, took command of Ark Royal in October 1990. Prior to that he was deputy director of the defence ministry's directorate of naval warfare, with responsibility for naval aviation. He was the first Royal Navy pilot to qualify to fly Harrier jets.

## Publicans catch Major's ear

By JOHN SHAW

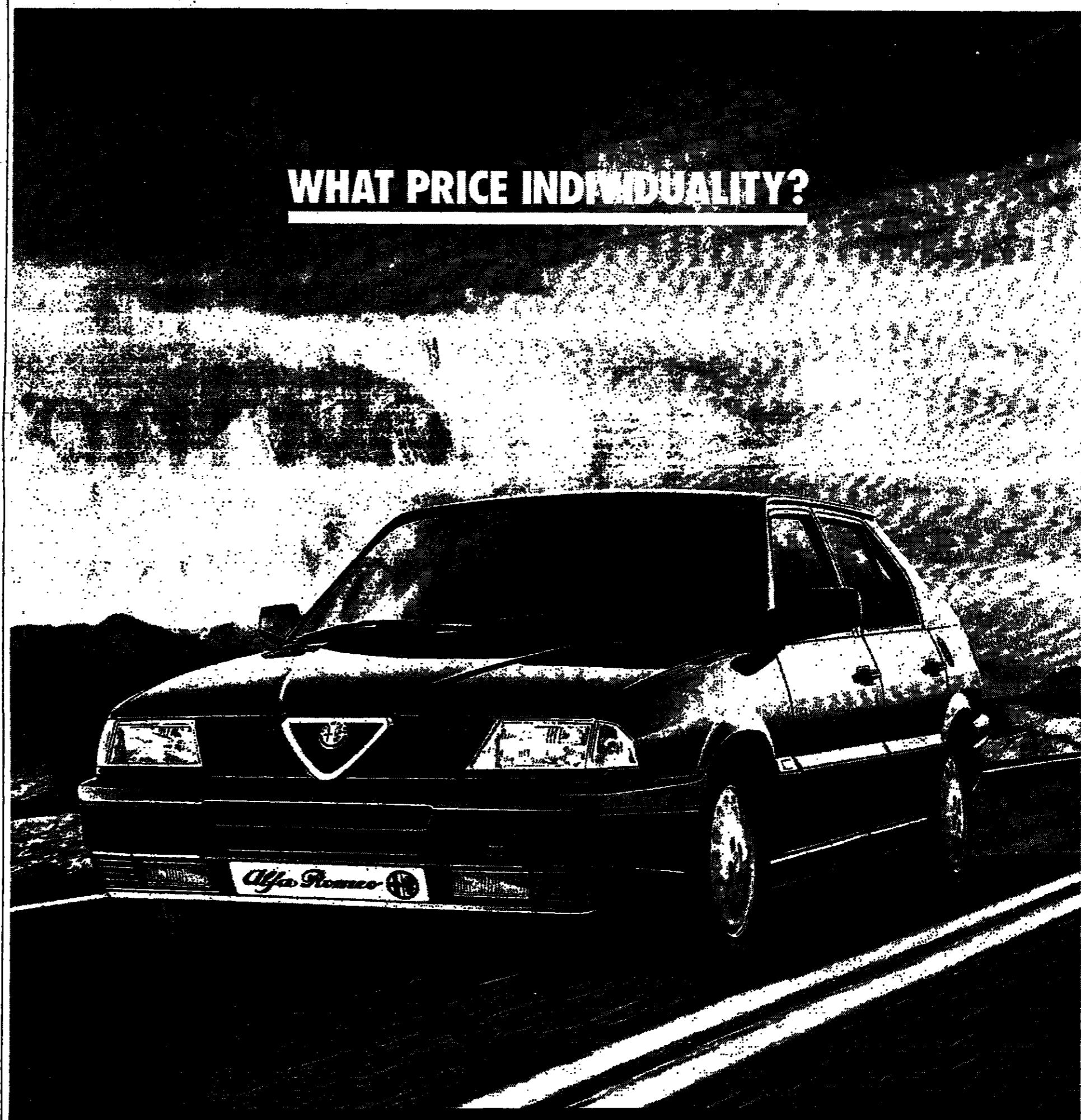
JOHN Major is to ask the trade department to study complaints by publicans in his Huntingdon constituency over new leases from brewers.

Fourteen public houses in the prime minister's constituency have closed or are in receivership because the publicans could not afford the new rents. The local Licensed Victuallers' Association has discussed with him its concerns over leases and poor compensation for tenants received by brewers' managers.

St Albans publicans have also complained to their MP, Peter Lilley, who, as trade secretary, is responsible for the law blamed for the problem. Big brewers say that the law's requirements that they reduce their tied houses necessitates new leases.

□ The Portman Group, the drinks industry lobby group, is to call for more flexible licensing hours so as to combat disorderly behavior. A report commissioned by it says that much of the disorder happens as pubs and clubs close and people converge on the street.

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£11,032.

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Yet it could buy you a true performance car with real individuality: the Alfa Romeo 33.

(And note we're quoting an all-in, 'drive-away' price.)

Car Magazine reported "...the asking price buys you a lot of dull, jumped-up machinery from rival makers."

World Sports Cars put it even more succinctly, they simply described the price as "ridiculous".

But don't take our word for it - test drive a new Alfa Romeo 33 for yourself. Discover the legendary flat four Boxer engine, now

available in three guises: the 98 bhp 1.5, the 110 bhp 1.7, plus the nothing less than spectacular 16v 1.7 litre that gives 137 bhp. You'll find this engine in the lively 1.7 16 Valve, the spacious Sport Wagon and the exhilarating Permanent 4 with its viscous-coupling, 4-wheel drive system ensuring that none of the engine's power is wasted.

You would expect no different from a Company that has dedicated itself to producing performance cars for over 80 years.

However, what you might not expect is the price: an Alfa Romeo 33 can be yours for just £11,032.\* Even the advanced technology of the Permanent 4 costs just £15,672,\* comparable to many 2 wheel drive 'hot' hatchbacks.

The standard specification on all models is no less impressive: power steering, central locking, stereo radio/cassette, electric front windows and a 6-year anti-corrosion warranty.

If ever there was a time to express your individuality, it's now - at your local Alfa Romeo dealer.

For further details, fill in the coupon and send it to the Alfa Romeo Information Service, PO Box 472, Horrow, Middlesex HA2 0BR, or telephone: (081) 812 0888 (24 hours).

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Present car \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Reg. \_\_\_\_\_

Which model interests you? \_\_\_\_\_

1.5  1.7  1.7 16v  Permanent 4  Sport Wagon



A RACE APART

\*Drive away prices quoted are correct at time of going to press and include car tax, delivery, number plates, 4-months road fund licence, VAT and labour cost of the first service.



# Following our recent awards, guess what we'll be organising in our brewery?

That's right, a small celebration.

At the 1992 Brewing Industry International Awards, Tennent's Pilsner, Draught Bass and Stones Best Bitter all picked up first prizes in their respective categories.

In other categories, Tennent's Extra, Carling Black Label and Allbright Bitter picked up two second prizes and one third prize.

In all, over 700 beers from 37 countries were judged by an international panel of experts.

Their verdict gives testimony to Bass's belief in traditional brewing values and professional expertise.

And our belief that, in a brewery, you have to organise things properly.

**Bass  
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## Bush rating slump lifts hopes of Democrats

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE steady erosion of public support for President Bush is continuing, according to the evidence of two new opinion polls, despite his State of the Union speech last week that was supposed to stop the haemorrhage.

A CNN/Time magazine survey gave Mr Bush an approval rating of only 44 per cent, the lowest yet. Fifty-eight per cent of respondents described the speech's economic recovery plan as an election-year gimmick, while 66 per cent said they did not think they would benefit from it. An unnamed Democrat said he did not think they would benefit from it. An unnamed Democrat would beat Mr Bush by 38 points to 35, although sup-

port for a named Democrat would probably be less.

The latest of a series of tracking polls in New Hampshire, where America's critical first primary is barely two weeks away, showed that President Bush's support in the state had dropped nine points in a week to 52 per cent despite the speech and a new television advertising campaign. Support for his challenger, Patrick Buchanan, the right-wing newspaper columnist, rose slightly to 19 per cent, while the number of undecided voters climbed to 29 per cent.

President Bush's slump, and the allegations of adultery against Bill Clinton, the embattled Democratic frontrunner, have encouraged leading Democrats to consider a late entry, and George Mitchell, the Senate leader, yesterday admitted that he had come under pressure to declare his position. He denied any plans to do so but did say that he believed the allegations had hurt Mr Clinton and diverted attention from his message. "I hope that it won't be a fatal thing."

In Washington, party leaders and officials remain fearful that Mr Clinton's campaign could be sunk if further allegations of marital infidelity surface, but the candidate's team appears outwardly confident that he has weathered the storm. Mr Clinton suggested to reporters on his plane that his campaign song should be Ray Charles' *I ain't going to worry no more*.

Jerry Brown, one of Mr Clinton's Democratic rivals, raised Gennifer Flowers's claims to have been the Arkansas governor's lover during a televised candidates' debate on Friday night, observing that "every time a woman makes a claim, she is always viewed as either lying or a bimbo". Bob Kerrey, another Democratic candidate rebuked Mr Brown: Mr Clinton said that the public would be the judge.

The debate gave the candidates a welcome opportunity to return to political issues, and several political observers declared Paul Tsongas, the former Massachusetts senator, the winner. Voters tend not to regard Mr Tsongas as presidential material, but he is nevertheless winning respect in his role as an "economic Paul Revere" who will not offer palliatives and bromides. He is now running a strong second after Mr Clinton in New Hampshire.

In a move to strengthen the Bush team, Clayton Yeutter, head of the Republican national committee, is moving to the White House to take charge of domestic policy.

US pay survey, page 17

## Hit squads target Indians

BY JEFFREY STAK

CONCERN is growing for the indigenous communities living near the city of Cali, the violent nucleus of Colombia's biggest drug cartel.

Nine days before last Christmas, about 60 hooded and heavily armed men, clad in camouflage uniforms, arrived at a remote property inhabited by a group of Paez Indians and opened fire. A number of Indians were killed, and then others were shot dead as they lay on the ground. In all, 20 people died in the attack, including ten women and children, and ten others were wounded.

The motive for the mass killing seems to be the local landowners wanted its property and were prepared to resort to a traditional tactic in Colombia to achieve that aim. Since then, six more Indians have been shot in two separate attacks and three people investigating the shodding have either been murdered or have disappeared.

Human rights groups say that such incidents are not unusual in Colombia or Peru. Though paramilitary groups were outlawed in Colombia in 1989, more than 100 of them are still active.

## Non-aligned nations seek role in new world order

FROM MICHAEL THEODOROU IN LARNACA

FOREIGN ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement are meeting in Cyprus this week to hammer out a new role for their unwieldy organisation, left marginalised by recent world events.

The movement, which often took the moral high ground, has made little impact since it was founded at the height of the Cold War in the late 1950s by mainly



Reaching for peace: a boy sitting on his father's shoulders, witnesses 30,000 Salvadoreans raising their hands in a minute's silence to commemorate the estimated 75,000 people who died in El Salvador's 12-year civil war. At an emotional weekend ceremony in the capital, San Salvador, to mark the end of

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# The sphinx loses his cool in unfunny Habash farce



Cresson: her job seems safe for the moment

IN A brave, but probably futile, effort to shelter President Mitterrand and the Socialist government against further damaging fallout from the botched handling of George Habash's visit to France, the Elysée palace declared yesterday that the affair should now be considered closed. Those guilty of serious mistakes had been punished and the law had been allowed to run its proper course, Jack Lang, the presidential spokesman, said.

According to M Lang, the ultimate Mitterrand loyalist, the controversy over allowing the Palestinian guerrilla leader to enter the country for medical treatment after suffering a stroke in Tunis had been inflamed by the opposition and the media. Loud demands for the resignation of Edith Cresson were part of an "unjust" campaign against the prime minister, he insisted. He also said that neither Roland Dumas, the

When the dust settles, M Mitterrand may be seen as the Habash scandal's main victim. Philip Jacobson in Paris and Christopher Walker in Cairo report on the affair that inflamed the French

foreign minister, nor Philippe Marchand, the interior minister, deserved the political assaults to which they had been subjected over the Habash affair.

But with M Mitterrand still fuming over the humiliation he suffered on the eve of his address last week to the special United Nations Security Council session, some observers still look for further sacrifices beyond the ranks of the high functionaries. The widespread belief that senior aides in the Elysée knew far more about the Habash visit than has so far been admitted increases the pressure on the president to take decisive action closer to home.

In Tunis, Palestinian officials said yesterday that the entire operation was conducted with the greatest secrecy. "We had agreed with France to keep it secret. The answer to the question of how this accord was violated is to be found in Paris," an aide to Yasir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organi-

ation, said. "Who alerted the press in what seems to have been an organised fashion?

The answer is in Paris, not Tunis," he added.

But to judge by M Lang's script, the prime minister's job seems safe at present, if only because the battered Socialist party machine and morale would virtually collapse if she was sacked before next month's important regional elections. As an old and trusted presidential aide, M Dumas should also survive, though the opposition and the press will continue to wonder about how he could have been entirely ignorant of an affair that led to the sacking of his number two.

Less certain is the fate of M Marchand, who wishes critics to believe that he knew nothing of his ministry's preparations to deploy a crack squad to meet, escort and guard Mr Habash as he underwent emergency brain surgery in a Paris hospital. Relatively new to office and quite unknown outside political circles, he could be the one to carry the

can on all known form. M Mitterrand would not hesitate to jettison him if the moment demands it.

On the periphery of the affair, the earliest casualty will probably be Georgina Dufour, whose personal involvement in the Habash affair as head of the French Red Cross led her to submit her immediate resignation as a valued councillor at the Elysée. A meeting of the Red Cross executive in Paris today is expected to demand that she steps down for having damaged the reputation of the organisation.

When the dust finally settles, it may be found that M Mitterrand was the prime victim of the scandal that struck so cruelly at his pride, even his credibility. Nothing was more damaging to the president's authority during the fiasco than the impression that at the moment of trouble his awesome political nerve may have begun to desert him.

Veteran Mitterrand watchers cannot recall him so edgy, so sensitive to political offence, real or imagined, as in his outburst last week against journalists who dared raise the matter of financial scandals affecting the Socialists. Those shifty remarks about "mad" French officials supposedly responsible for authorising Dr Habash's entry, the shrill complaints aboard Concorde en route for New York that "I am not some god who sees and decides everything", were not what the French have come to expect during a decade of rule by *le sphinx*.

Although bitterly opposed to the new flexibility shown by the PLO, he was determined that his front would remain within the PLO umbrella. And despite his long record as a mastermind of terrorist violence, including links with the notorious Carlos the Jackal (Ilich Ramírez Sánchez), Dr Habash continues to be regarded by some PLO supporters as the "conscience" of the movement.

Leading article, page 13

## Moscow pleads for reform aid

# Yeltsin and Bush affirm era of trust

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

PRESIDENT Yeltsin flew back to Moscow yesterday after a Camp David meeting with George Bush which gave the Russian leader the valuable and wholehearted support of an American president who previously had distrusted him.

Mr Yeltsin gained no firm pledges of further aid, and only general agreements on nuclear disarmament and other issues. But the leaders did agree to hold two formal summits, the first in Washington before June and the second in Moscow, probably in the run-up to the American presidential election.

The most striking outcome

of the informal three-hour meeting was the two leaders' affirmation of a new era of "friendship and partnership based on mutual trust" between their two nations. The sub-plot was that apparently successful effort to improve their personal relationship now that Mr Bush is no longer constrained by loyalty to Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Bush and Mr Yeltsin signed a joint declaration saying that Russia and America no longer regarded themselves as adversaries, pledging to remove all remnants of Cold War hostility, and undertaking to work together to support democracy, resolve

regional conflicts, counter terrorism, and prevent nuclear proliferation.

"From now on, we do not consider ourselves to be potential enemies. That is the historic value of this meeting," said Mr Yeltsin. "There has been written and drawn a new line, and crossed out all of the things that have been associated with the Cold War." The two men discussed their proposals to cut their strategic nuclear missile arsenals more deeply, but said that specifics should be left to experts. James Baker, the Secretary of State, will launch these negotiations on a visit to Moscow within two weeks.

Mr Bush proposed, and Mr Yeltsin endorsed, the idea of a joint centre to employ US and Russian nuclear scientists in research, thereby ensuring the latter do not sell their services to hostile Third World regimes. Mr Bush was non-committal about Mr Yeltsin's call for a global defence system using American "Star Wars" technology.

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Community shop celebrates ten years of fighting off rural decline.

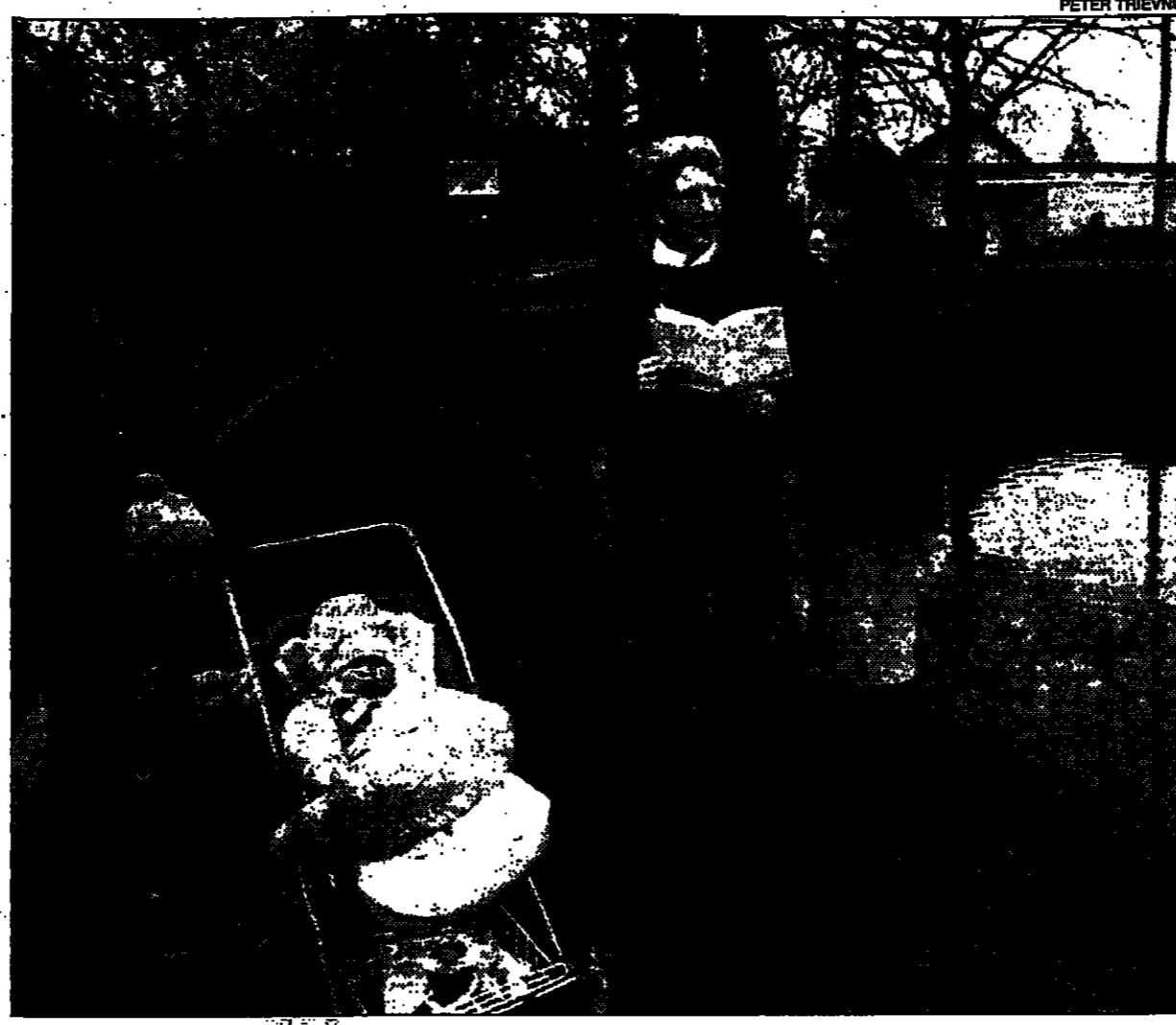
## Do-it-yourself store rescues a village

An Essex village, with its thriving shop and school, is a beacon of hope to dying communities, Michael Horsnell writes

THE bustle of customers among the baked beans, frozen meats and vegetables in the village shop in Debden may not match the crush of the food hall at Harrods but it's at least as lively as the commotion of foraging ducks on the pond near by.

Debden, near Saffron Walden, Essex, has bucked the trend towards living death in the English village by celebrating the tenth anniversary of its self-help community shop, which has an annual turnover of more than £50,000. Its vibrancy is testimony to the endeavours of the 700 villagers to keep alive the community spirit in Debden, which also has a primary school, two public houses, two churches and village hall where tickets for next week's three performances of *Cinderella* are sold out.

With village stores closing at the rate of 3 per cent a year, and 20 per cent for sale, the Council for the Protection of Rural England regards Debden as a beacon in the fight for survival of rural communities. The non profit-making shop and post office, which has won a Shell



Pooling resources: Liz Wood, left; Judith Forster, centre, and Gillian Bray by the pond in front of the shop

school, The Bell public house and a shop, all converted to private houses. Neither the village forefathers, who made it famous by building two mighty churches next door to each other with a shared graveyard, nor the American airmen of the 387th bomber squadron who flew out of Willingale

during the second world war, would recognise it now.

Stanley Patmore, aged 87, who moved to Willingale at the age of six months, said: "We've lost everything really.

A village can't lose all its facilities and expect to keep the same community spirit going, not when old people have to go five miles to

Ongar to shop and the children two and a half miles to Fyfield to school."

There is a bus service, but the sort that might take you to the doctor in Ongar only for you to find you can't get back again.

Nick Shuttleworth, director of the county's Rural Community Council, said:

"Willingale is lovely to look at but it's a good example of what happens when a village loses its services, though it still has a cricket club so it hasn't quite reached the end of civilisation. The way that people in Debden got together provides a lesson we are trying to sell to other villages."

## Judge campaigns to put Germany in the slow lane

AS THE driver of any Mercedes rushing down the motorway with his accelerator flat on the floor will tell you, a German's right to drive as fast as his car will carry him is proof that he lives in a democracy. Now that right is under attack from the highest judge in the land, Roman Herzog, the constitutional court president.

Speaking "as a human being and not as a judge", he has come out in favour of imposing a maximum limit of 130kph (81mph) on all motorways, and urged police action to make it credible. The judge's comments to a traffic safety symposium have roused and enraged the powerful speed lobby, which regards the very idea of limits as dangerous nonsense. Germany is the last country in Europe without a speed

limit and they mean to keep it that way.

In the days before unification, West Berliners proved they were free by driving fast out along the Avis, the former German racing track forms the last six miles of the motorway coming from the West. "Freedom to drive for a free people" became a slogan to mark the difference between the democratic, unlimited West and the 100kph authoritarian East.

Accident figures and pollution statistics, however, have begun to seem more important to most than the right to speed. Recent polls show

that a narrow majority of Germans support a speed limit and several Social Democratic state governments plan to introduce one if the national law is not altered.

The speed lobby, however,

confident that the constitutional court would never apply the brakes, was uninvited until Herr Herzog spoke out.

Eckehard Gries, Free

Democrat transport spokesman, complained that the judge was using his office with no thought for the consequences. Count Otto Lambsdorff, chairman of the Free Democrats, said there was no reason to think a speed limit would reduce accidents or pollution. Rudolf Kraus, Bavarian Christian Social Union transport spokesman, said a speed limit would be neither sensible and

nor constitutional possible.

There were 2.09 million recorded traffic accidents in west Germany and 385,800 in the east during the first 11 months of last year. In the west, 10,226 were killed and 6,861 died in the east, an increase of 21 per cent on the worst annual figure before unification.

It has an impressive pedigree from the company's golden age when it was raced by "the Bentley Boys" a group of dashing, wealthy and frequently tailed young drivers. The anonymous owner died recently and it will be auctioned at the RAF museum, Hendon, on March 30.

London: A classic Bentley which has gathered dust in a garage on the Isle of Man for more than 20 years is expected to make about £100,000 when it is sold by Sotheby's.

It has an impressive pedigree from the company's golden age when it was raced by "the Bentley Boys" a group of dashing, wealthy and frequently tailed young drivers. The anonymous owner died recently and it will be auctioned at the RAF museum, Hendon, on March 30.

### Polite police

Cambridge: Sorry seems to be the hardest word for police who come under attack from the public, according to Ben Gunn, the new deputy chief constable of Cambridgeshire. Complaints about incivility are often dropped if an officer says the magic words "I'm sorry."

### US accolade

New York: More than 90 per cent of Americans say the Japanese are hard-working and competitive but only 15 per cent of Japanese think the same about US workers, according to a *Time-CNN* opinion poll. (AFP)

### Sweet cures

Manila: High-priced Philip Morris doctors face stiff competition from folk healers on radio who advise the eating of "super candies" to cure cancer and heart disease. (AFP)

### Royal order

Brussels: Belgium's King Baudouin has chosen Jean-Luc Dehaene, his communications minister as a mediator to unblock efforts to form a government after two months of political vacuum. (Reuters)

### Desert flyers

Dubai: Scientists from 32 countries are meeting to discuss the breeding, feeding and ailments of racing camels. (Reuters)

### Change of Interest Rates

#### INVESTMENTS

With effect from 4th February 1992 the rates of interest listed below will apply to savings and investment accounts currently available.

New Rates  
Gross Net equiv.  
Rate A Rate AA

TESSA  
ABBEY NATIONAL HIGH YIELD BOND  
(Annual Interest) £50,000 plus 10.95 8.31

£25,000 up to £49,999 10.60 7.95

£10,000 up to £24,999 10.10 7.58

(Monthly Interest) £50,000 plus 10.44 7.83

£25,000 up to £49,999 10.12 7.59

£10,000 up to £24,999 9.66 7.25

INSTANT SAVER  
(Annual Interest) £25,000 plus 9.65 7.24

£10,000 up to £24,999 9.35 7.01

£5,000 up to £19,999 8.65 6.49

(Monthly Interest) £25,000 plus 9.25 6.94

£10,000 up to £24,999 8.97 6.73

£5,000 up to £19,999 8.52 6.24

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT  
(Annual Interest) £25,000 plus 8.40 6.30

£10,000 up to £24,999 7.75 5.81

£5,000 up to £19,999 6.65 4.99

£1,000 up to £2,499 6.10 4.58

(Monthly Interest) £25,000 plus 8.09 6.07

£10,000 up to £24,999 7.49 5.62

£5,000 up to £19,999 6.46 4.85

£1,000 up to £2,499 5.94 4.46

CURRENT ACCOUNT  
(Monthly Interest) 3.00 2.35

RETIREMENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT Gross Rate p.a.%

(Personal Pension Plan) £20,000 plus 10.35%

£15,000 up to £19,999 10.10%

£10,000 up to £14,999 9.70%

£5,000 up to £9,999 9.30%

£2,000 up to £4,999 8.70%

Up to £1,999 7.70%

OTHER ACCOUNTS

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A interest will be paid gross to eligible non-tax payers who register with us as required by the Inland Revenue.

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## Saddam imposes a thousand and one gloomy nights

FROM REUTER  
IN BAGHDAD

BAGHDAD authorities are cracking down on drinking and singing in the city of the Thousand and One Nights. Under plans reported by *al-Thawra*, the newspaper of the ruling Baath party, singing in public restaurants will be banned and the sale of alcohol restricted to "certain" areas and streets". No details were given.

Unlike some Arab countries, Iraq has never imposed a blanket ban on alcohol. The nightlife of Baghdad

is set, famous throughout the Middle East — a fact which made Saddam Hussein's appeal to Islamic opinion during the Gulf War less than convincing to some. But *al-Thawra* complained that "a great number of Baghdad restaurants have turned into nightclubs as owners organise singing and dancing parties in them".

No more if Baghdad municipality has its way. Its new rules would make singing the exclusive preserve of nightclubs and would set up anti-singing vigilante squads. "Joint com-

mittees comprising members from the People's Councils and the Baghdad municipality will supervise restaurants, hotels and bars to see that they adhere to these measures," *al-Thawra* reported.

People's councils are elected local bodies usually dominated by conservative figures. The new measures reflect top-level displeasure with licentious behaviour in a country where international trade sanctions and the after-effects of the Gulf War have impoverished people on average incomes. Last month, Saddam Hus-

sein imposed a £178,000 fine on an Iraqi businessman who threw a generous cheque at the feet of a bellydancer whose performance enthralled him. Saddam complained on national television about "frivolous behaviour and shameless spending", evidently conscious not only of austere Islamic values but also of the growing gap between rich and poor in Iraq. And when Saddam's half-brother, Watban Ibrahim al-Hassan, became interior minister on November 13, he vowed to end "degrading nocturnal practices".

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# The stunts that stunt debate

Both main parties are trying to avoid real discussion, says Peter Riddell

RIDDELL  
ON MONDAY

The public has every right to be annoyed by the politicians, and parts of the press, are giving voters a misleading view of the choices. This is not simply a matter of smears and stunts, such as yesterday's sensationalisation and distortion of routine contacts between Labour leaders and Soviet officials, the parading of Aneurin Bevan's nephew as a supporter of Tory health plans, and Labour posters showing Norman Lamont as Batman. All that is degrading enough, though no worse in past elections.

More important is how politicians are trying to define the debate in narrow terms. To read this weekend's speeches you would think that the election is about small shifts in the distribution of taxes and spending, and about the poll tax, with more of the same soon about the health service, education and the unions.

Yet the fundamentals of economic policy are largely ignored: the position of sterling in the exchange-rate mechanism and interest rates.

**'A consensus on basics gives politicians the comfort of huddling together to avoid awkward choices'**

These will have more impact on the economy than the tax choices now in the headlines. The debate has narrowed because the main parties are in greater agreement; both, for instance, accepting the ERM. Tony Benn has a point when he complains about the stifling impact of this cross-party consensus. Labour's policy shift of the late 1980s means that much of the battleground of the 1983 and 1987 elections has become common ground. There are no longer arguments about privatisation or council house sales, about Britain's possession of nuclear weapons and its membership of the European Community. Remaining differences, though important in detail, are exaggerated to appear fundamental even when they are not.

A consensus on basics gives politicians the comfort of huddling together to avoid awkward choices. Baldwin's evasions over defence in the 1935 election were not unique. The word devaluation is not mentioned by any front-benchers — apart from one or two Labour spokesmen whispering privately out of earshot of John Smith — even though it is widely debated by economists. This is like Harold Wilson's obsessive ban in the mid-1960s on references to devaluation in even the most secret cabinet papers.

Similarly, the belated cross-party support for Trident (even if without agreement on the number of warheads on each missile) means that there has been no real debate about defence strategy when it is most needed. Labour does not want to risk looking unpatriotic, while the Tories do not want to face up to the implications of the end of the cold war. On Europe also, all parties have used the Maastricht deal as a means of deferring decisions on the future of the Community — the form of monetary union and the

electorate is being short-changed.

The public's view of the election is not as narrow as the campaign managers would like it to be. To the extent that real choices about the economy and defence are not being presented by the parties, the electorate is being short-changed.

Daniel Johnson on a Jewish accusation that the betrayal of Christ is an anti-Semitic myth

# Rehabilitating Judas

Judas Iscariot! To Christians, the word is an accusation hurled from hell, the disciple whose name became synonymous with betrayal. In the last circle of the Inferno, Virgil hardly needs to tell Dante the name of the sinner whom Satan himself is champing in his jaws.

But Judas has sometimes evoked sympathy. The 19th century French scholar Ernest Renan, whose *Life of Jesus* was the most famous attempt to treat Christ as a purely historical figure, saw Judas as a zealot, an anti-Roman agitator who believed in Jesus as a political messiah, but betrayed him out of disappointment with his unworldly gospel of peace and love.

Even Renan, however, accepted the fact of Christ's betrayal at the hands of the Iscariot. Now Judas has found an altogether more radical apologist in Hyam Maccoby, distinguished Jewish biblical scholar. *Judas Iscariot and the Myth of Jewish Evil*, to be published later this month by Peter Halban, continues the argument of Maccoby's earlier works.

In essence, he thinks that Jesus was an orthodox Jewish messiah, and the apostle Jude or Judas was one and the same person as Judas Iscariot. There was no betrayal of Jesus and his execution by the

Romans had nothing to do with the Jews. His life and death were transformed by the apostle Paul from Gnostic and Hellenistic sources into a mystery cult of human sacrifice and atonement. For Maccoby, the invented betrayal of Jesus by Judas on behalf of the Jewish people is an integral part of this myth through the Pauline church the bacillus of anti-Semitism entered the life-blood of Christianity; through Christianity, it passed into post-Christian ideologies such as Nazism and Marxism. Maccoby states baldly: "Every political system that has a concept of an active principle of evil in the world elects the Jews for the diabolical role."

I shall leave to others the task of engaging with Maccoby's textual and other evidence. My concern is with his indictment of the Christian religion. He does not see as accidental the frequent identification of Judas with the Jews in Christian culture, and suggests that this anti-Semitic caricature — to be found not only in the anonymous authors of medieval



Symbol of evil: Judas in a medieval manuscript

passion plays and their immediate successors (such as Marlowe and Shakespeare), but in writers of exemplary tolerance, a George Herbert or a Laurence Sterne — is implicit in the Christian structure of thought. In order to "rehabilitate" Judas, "the myth of God incarnate" would have to be accepted by all Christians as exactly that: a myth and no more.

Testament in Christianity, the Judaic component that helps to distinguish it from Gnosticism and the early heresies. The survival of Judaism as a living faith has always been important to Christian eschatology. St Paul himself, Maccoby's villain, saw the Jews at witnesses to the truth until the Second Coming.

The story of Judas is disturbing even to the disinterested agnostic: how much more so to Christians. Yet it is possible to disentangle the historical Judas story from the hideous anti-Jewish interpretation of later times. Judas — whoever he was, whatever he did, whether he did it — was not a representative of his people. Maccoby's parting shot, that "the restoration of honour to the name Judas" would do the same for "the people of Judah who still bear this name", falls into the same trap as the anti-Semites only in reverse.

Christianity and Judaism are incompatible, but neither religion is intrinsically intolerant of others. Jesus and the other disciples were no less Jewish than Judas; equally, Judas was one of the first Christians. We are all, Jews and Gentiles, capable of betrayal. We all need God's forgiveness and, in spite of Dame, we may all (even Judas) hope to receive it.

# Whose death is it anyway?

**The flourishing gurus of suicide are helping end lives that might better be saved, writes Bernard Levin**

Given the choice, I would rather not be married to Mr Derek Humphry. Mr Humphry might reasonably say that he would in no circumstances consider marrying me, but I thought I should make my position plain. Any such approach would be — politely, I hope — unambiguously declined. But before I explain I must digress.

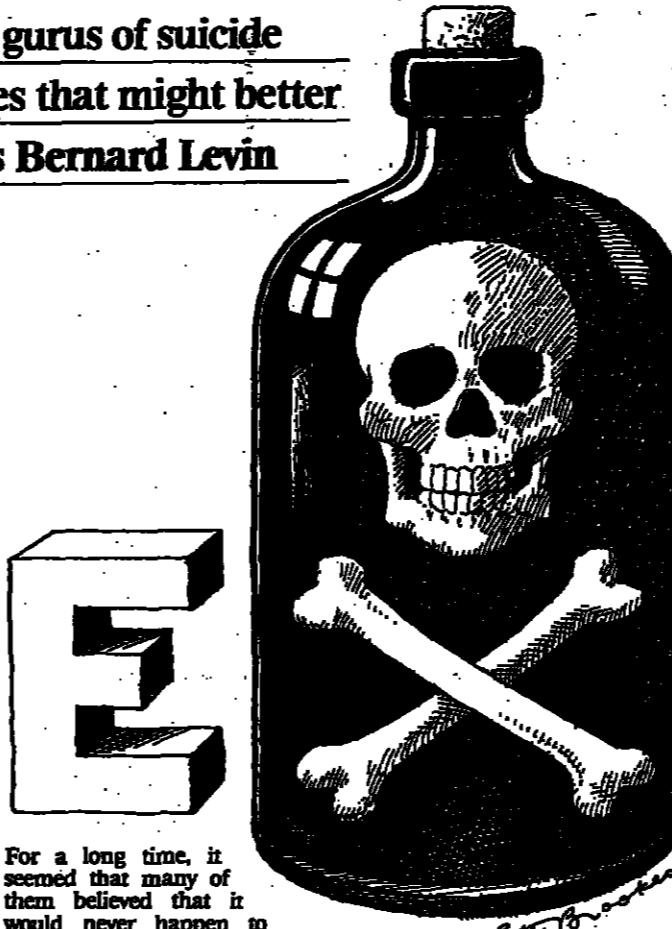
It has long been true that anyone going into an American hospital, to have treatment for whatever malady, is immediately rushed into the operating theatre, there to undergo a full and generally successful castration. True, in many cases the treatment has led to a serious attack of insolvency, usually traced to the use of an unsterilised IOU, and when, on top of that, doctors have set in, recovery is rare.

Now, however, in words of a more ancient provenance, American medicine can be said to have added a new terror to death. All people going into a hospital there, for any reason — triple heart bypass, chilblains, brain surgery, grazed knee — are formally asked whether, should they later find themselves to be brain-dead and on a life-support machine, the machine should be switched off and death allowed to take over.

This remarkable state of affairs has come about by legislation (the Patient Self-Determination Act), and anyone but an American legislator will already have realised that the mortality figures will soar heavenwards (*ab inito*) when the thing gets into its stride; fallen aches or liver transplants, the sufferer will now have to worry about the ghastly document, the very wording of which must settle the hash of many of those who go into hospital with a light heart and come out in a heavy casket.

That is not the extent of the Americans' obsession with death. For a long time, it seemed that many of them believed that it would never happen to them. But now, it seems, so far from Americans insisting on immortality, they are practising self-ending in great and growing numbers. Which is where Mr Humphry, to say nothing of his bank balance, comes in.

Mr Humphry has had the misfortune to have had two wives, both of whom died of cancer. Let us look at his first bereavement, and his first book. His wife, Jean, had cancer, and was told that she would not survive the year. Mr Humphry, against the day when she would wish to die, laid in a stock of overdoses, and when the day did come, he records the dialogue as follows:



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"Derek? Jean called softly.  
"Yes, darling?"  
"It is this the day?"

I panicked. My mouth dried up and I could not control the tears which rushed to my eyes. It was the most awful moment of my life. However, I had to answer, "Yes, my darling, it is..."

I took her in my arms and held her.

"Goodbye, my love."  
"Goodbye, darling."

She lifted the mask and gulped the contents swiftly, leaned back on her pillow and closed her eyes... she did not need further help.

That sickening stuff is from Mr Humphry's book; naturally, I have no knowledge of its authenticity, and the only other person who does is in no position to correct errors, if any. He married again, as we shall learn.

The book about the first Mrs Humphry and her ending was successful, to a considerable extent because there was, or Mr Humphry said there was, a likelihood that it would lead to prosecution for him; he had helped to kill his wife, and in British law there is no extenuating clause for those who do so, even for the purest motives. He was not charged, and doubtless the book's sales rose again. In any case, he and his new wife had thought it best to settle in America, where they founded an organisation called Hemlock, devoted to helping people wishing to kill themselves to do so (I am sorry about this macabre stuff, but Mr Humphry is macabre, very). Anyways, Hemlock began to flourish

throughout the United States, and there Mr and the second Mrs Humphry are to this day.

Or rather, he is. The second Mrs Humphry also contracted cancer (she has since died of it), whereupon Mr Humphry left her, explaining his removal from the matrimonial home and hearth by means of an up-to-date fellow, Mr Humphry, as well as a macabre one — a message on the matrimonial answering machine.

They fell out very badly; perhaps I might quote from another of Mr Humphry's telephone messages his former beloved. It went like this:

If you continue this stupid fighting one step more, I shall give your sister and nieces a full statement that you've committed a crime in helping your parents to die. They will then be able to sue for the \$300,000 you inherited... I'm in deadly earnest..."

Now, perhaps, you understand

why I would be loath to enter into marriage with Mr Humphry. But I must now explain why it is in the highest degree unlikely that he would feel a need to join with me in holy matrimony. For Mr Humphry has recently published a book in the United States called *Final Exit*, which has turned out to be an enormous success, soaring up the bestseller list. Who needs Levin?

*Final Exit* is a manual of suicide, which describes ways in which a man or woman (or, if occurs to me, a child) might practise self-ending. It is immensely thorough, describing any number of methods, and God knows (though Mr Humphry certainly does not) how many people with minds troubled in various ways — financial, matrimonial, gerontological — have been helped by Mr Humphry's advice to end a life which might, with a little help from a friend, a neighbour, a priest or a fine day, go on happily for many years.

Mr Humphry's book is banned in Britain. Here it is a crime to give instruction in suicide or to help anyone to do it. But of course contraband copies of Mr Humphry's book are coming into the country. Rape, anybody? (No, I must be fair: Mr Humphry urges those looking for the exit not to find it by hanging themselves; it is unpleasant for the subject and messy for those who have to clean up.)

Mr Humphry has recently had something of a setback: there was a proposal before the legislature in Washington State which would have made it legal for doctors to kill patients directly, by giving an overdose of a lethal drug, or by an equally death-inducing injection. A referendum was held, and the proposal, heavily tipped to succeed, was defeated by 54 per cent to 46 per cent. Still, although he failed to conclude such a notable advance in medicine, Mr Humphry, his book and his organisation are no doubt flourishing, so if you want to know the best way of doing yourself in, you know where to go. As for me, matrimony is not the only offer from him I would shun. I would not accept a free copy of his suicide manual either.

**...and moreover**

**MATTHEW PARRIS**

At Chesterfield railway station, entrance and exit is gained through double swing doors. Each door, left and right, has a handle, but you cannot tell whether either is supposed to be pushed or pulled. You would calculate from this that the traveller who arrives at Chesterfield, faces the doors and takes a guess would have a 50 per cent chance of getting it right.

But one of the pair is permanently bolted; this can neither be pushed nor pulled. Looking at the doors, however, you cannot tell whether it is the left or the right which is the dual.

The reader may care to recalculate. Your conclusion should be that the traveller stands a one in four chance of getting it right first time. The traveller who does is lucky, and the only one (if to push is the answer) who does not have to put down all his luggage in order to pull. The unluckiest one is the traveller who first pulls the dual door, then pushes it, then turns his attention to the door which does open one way, tries to open it the other way. Only on the fourth try does one of the doors yield.

That is, if our traveller reaches a fourth try. For, with half an hour to kill the other day, I kept watch at the doors and observed otherwise. Surprisingly often, human patience snaps at the third unsuccessful push or pull. The traveller turns away from the door, convinced there is something wrong with it.

out. He left only one option untried with the first pair of doors, and there now remains only one untried option with the second. His confidence should rise.

Sadly, I found that this is not how our friend tends to see it. Anguily abandoning the attempt to get through the second doors just when he should persist, he hauls his luggage back over the hall to the first, to have a second go at these, in case he missed something first time.

Your arithmetic has raced ahead of my prose: he left, married the first time. It must work.

Sadly, I found that this is not how our friend tends to see it. Anguily abandoning the attempt to get through the second doors just when he should persist, he hauls his luggage back over the hall to the first, to have a second go at these, in case he missed something first time.

Remember we are dealing with an intellect that has grappled unsuccessfully with one pair of doors already and turned to the second in something approaching despair. Now he tries to push the left hand door. No luck, so he pulls. Still no luck. He turns to the right hand door and gives one final, angry push. No luck.

The voice of reason should tell him not that he is close to failure, but that he *must* be close to success. He looks around the small booking hall and observes that there are no other doors except those that lead back on to platform one, for Sheffield, Leeds and York; or (via the stairs) platform two, for Derby, Leicester and London. So the swing doors are his only way

**Kremlin capers**

**THE Sunday Times** story yesterday about alleged close links between Labour and the Kremlin raised wry smiles among some who observed those relationships at first hand. They recall a Russian hierarchy that was far from fascinated by Neil Kinnock and his colleagues. Nor, it seems, did Kinnock ever labour under any illusions about the Russians.

On the Russian side, the pattern was set when Kinnock and Denis Healey, then shadow foreign affairs spokesman, met Konstantin Chernenko, the ailing Soviet leader. Journalists who spoke Russian heard Chernenko enquire of an aide: "Who is this Neil Kinnock?"

Healey too, despite having a relationship with the Russians dating back to his days as the party's international secretary, was not always recognised. He was once barred from a reception at the Kremlin to mark the 40th anniversary of victory in Europe. "In desperation, I pulled out my wallet and showed my old age pensioner's bus pass from the GLC", Healey recalls. It worked.

Healey turned into a skilled communist-baiter. In 1984, he and Kinnock were met by a reception committee led by Boris Ponamaryov, the communist theorist and recipient of the "Kinnock" cables from the Soviet embassy in London. "Same old mafia I see," Healey remarked.

Kinnock himself went out of his way to make plain his distaste for much that he found. At one legendary meeting with Georgi Arbatov, the Kremlin's foreign relations adviser, he broke his pencil in little pieces under the table with frustration. "I didn't come all the way to listen to propaganda," he complained.



**At the World Cup it was Puccini's Nessun Dorma and at this month's Winter Olympics it will be Verdi. The rousing chorus from Nabucco — 'Va, pensiero, sul' all' dorare' — will herald the BBC's coverage of the games. This is rather appropriate as the words go, 'Fly, thought, on wings of gold.'**

**Haul of fame**

**MICHAEL JACKSON** has called in a medley of American superstars for his latest music video, premiered in the US last night. Magic Johnson, the basketball player who tested HIV positive last year, opens the film by smashing on a large dinner gong like the Rank musicman. Johnson's worldwide fans can look forward to the sight of him stripped to the waist, while Jackson's followers will be able to savour his first on-screen kiss.

**Remember The Time**, the second video to accompany Jackson's new *Dangerous* album, is set in ancient Egypt and features comedian Eddie Murphy and the black model and actress Iman, who plays Queen Neferiti.

Jackson appears in a monk's habit which he strips off to reveal a golden Flash Gordon-style space suit and skirt. He so enraptures Neferiti with his frenzied dancing

tains and see a shepherd leading his goats.

"But I also feel a certain homesickness for the Downlands of Berkshire which spur on my writing. My house here is also just right; it's a 500-year-old olive mill with its own historical tale." *Ulverton* focuses episodically on life in the Berkshire village at intervals of 30 years.

**Changing places**

**EUROCRATS** may be notorious for their conservatism but this year they are daring to change the order in which EC countries hold the six-month rotating presidency.

The countries which are lumbered with this from July to December, which will next be Britain, complain they get a raw deal. Nothing much happens in Brussels over the summer, which leaves a mad rush from October to prepare for the December summit.

So... this year Britain will hand over to Denmark instead of Belgium, the usual successor. Every other country will then change with the next in alphabetical order. Douglas Hurd, hoping that he will still be foreign secretary in July, is said to be delighted that Denmark will join him in the troika of past, present and future presidents. The Danes are, after all, the most sceptical Europeans after the British.

This move really does break the mould, which has been fixed by the even number of members. But it could all change again if the Community opens its doors to new members.

**Baronesse Jeger of St Pancras** points out that she is not Jenny Jeger's mother as we reported in Saturday's diary. "I am only bright young Jenny's old auntie," she says.





## PROFESSIONAL FOUL?

The professions have long occupied an enviable niche in the British class structure. The doctor, the lawyer, the accountant, the architect, the surveyor, the academic all basked in the desiderata of civilised life. Work was stimulating; security of employment was substantial. Supply of practitioners was kept just short of demand by control over entry into the profession, often backed by statute. A sufficient and often ample income could therefore comfortably be enjoyed. Above all, practitioners could expect near-universal admiration and respect, untouched by the peculiar British prejudice against commerce and industry.

To ensure the best possible service to customer, client or patient, lengthy and expensive training had to be undergone. This was both for the acquisition of appropriate professional skills and for a long and gradual initiation into the ethos and tradition of that professional sub-class. But long and poorly remunerated training had the incidental effect of putting substantial barriers in the way of those who might wish to practise such professions. Unpaid or underpaid labour was required of would-be and trainee barristers and doctors. Accountants had to pass examinations which revolved in difficulty the legendary tests set to Chinese civil servants.

And what starts as a necessary professional criterion can eventually become a blatant restrictive practice, the desirable protection of the public giving way to the undesirable protection of professional privilege. Those who have earned the rights and privileges of professional status the hard way will not gladly see their ranks diluted and their space invaded by others who have found an easier route. So academics will prize their "tenure". Teachers will demand graduate-only entry. Advertising agents, insurance brokers, even estate agents, will organise themselves in quasi-professional bodies to uphold standards and to restrict competition from — so they say — the "cowboys".

Little of this has changed in the past decade. One achievement of Thatcherism was to diminish the power of those trade unions that organised manual workers. The professional closed shop, the trade unions of the middle classes, survived intact. Margaret Thatcher bequeathed what she inherited: a legal profession divided between barristers and solicitors; a medical profession divided between surgeons, general practitioners, paramedics and nurses; neither profession eager to examine, let alone change, its traditional internal demarcations and restrictions.

There is a plausible case for each restriction: the enhancement of the public interest, the protection of public safety and the long-term nourishment of expertise. Each has its objections too. Combinations and cartels of private capital and labour are rightly limited by law, and their control has been rigorously extended by recent parliaments. The willingness of these parliaments at the same time to protect the professions from such reforms counts among the more damaging hypocrisies of British public life.

Tory ministers have toyed with it. But Lord Mackay's attempts to reform the legal profession were amended to death, showing how far the reforming zeal applied to trade unions withered when faced with professional union opposition. The cause of reform, however, is not yet lost. The surface ice hides great currents flowing below, mostly moved by marketplace pressure. In a series of Monday editorials *The Times* will examine the challenges facing individual professions in the 1990s. Each is different and the symptoms of stress vary. Yet common elements can be distinguished.

The dominant one is the decline of deference on the part of those who seek the help of a profession. Not all professionals wear uniforms, but each was trained to expect the respect implied by the doctor's

## COUP DE GRACE

George Habash's brief visit to Paris was an unqualified fiasco. The country's top civil servants, including the secretary-general of the Quai d'Orsay, have been sacked. The socialist party is in embarrassed disarray. The opposition is calling for the dismissal of the interior and foreign ministers, and many now say that Edith Cresson, the hapless prime minister, may yet have to pay the price of her government's incompetence.

But President Mitterrand's angry denunciation of his "mad" underlings will not be enough to distance him from the most damaging scandal since the Greenpeace affair. A demoralised government has acted without any compass except that of expediency. The affair could end in the premature resignation of an elderly president widely perceived as having lost his political touch.

The incident is yet another in a chain of misfortunes to hit an accident-prone government. It itself does not necessarily point to disarray and paralysis at the top. Yet it has reinforced such a public perception, which has already made Mme Cresson the most unpopular prime minister for a decade and led France's neighbours to speak of a *fin de siècle* drift in Paris. The more an incredulous public learns, the more pointed its questions. Who authorised Mr Habash's entry? Was it his first visit? Why did a top Red Cross official and presidential adviser encourage him to go to Paris? Why were armed police on hand to meet and guard him? Who tipped off the press and for what motive?

The government's response has been equally incredible. Officials could not ignore the inevitable public outrage; George Habash, as leader of the hardline terrorist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was responsible for the terrorising of passengers hijacked to Entebbe as well as the seizure and destruction of four planes forced

white coat and the barrister's wig. A professional opinion, once sought, was to be accepted. A second opinion, and by implication a testing of the market, would be impudent and very costly. (The NHS enshrined the right to a second opinion, but only after fierce argument from doctors.)

Today's educated layman is increasingly ready to challenge his professional adviser. The lawyer and the accountant are no longer left to administer the rules, but asked to find a way round them. The professional is expected to deliver: to make the patient better; the company profitable; the building beautiful and the case winnable. No latitude is left for failure, little for ethics.

With this has come a transatlantic import, a willingness to sue if satisfaction is not given. Time was when the consumer of a professional service was a willing victim of monopoly practices. If advice was bad — too bad for the customer. Today, redress is sought. Architects may spend a quarter of their income on indemnity insurance. Arthur Andersen, the accountants, find themselves sued for up to \$1 billion in the De Lorean affair. British obstetricians now pay nearly £2,000 a year for malpractice cover. Surveyors are allocating up to 6 per cent of turnover to the same end. Lawyers even sue lawyers.

The professions, unused to consumer criticism, hardly know where to turn in the storm. And the marketplace too is insinuating itself past even the most elaborate fortifications. Professional marketing is responding, aided by the collapse of monopolistic bans on advertising. Solicitors now mount "make-a-will week"; hospitals advertise for patients. This must change the relationship between the professions and their clients. It is hard to keep an aloof detachment from a client whose custom has been tested.

While the professions may maintain national monopolies over entry, they cannot resist the onward march of the European Community's competition policy. The imposition of mutual recognition of professional qualifications is near, though resistance in Germany, Greece and Spain remains. The European Court has used its powers to prevent unreasonable insistence on local knowledge and qualifications. The market for professions is less rigidly national than it was; and the process is unlikely to stop here.

Already British accountants dominate the European market. British architects are not far behind. French hospitals are bidding for British business. Sensible professions will welcome the competition. Auditors, for example, are operating in a mature market which is no longer growing domestically. Their best opportunity for expansion lies in the rest of Europe. Competition will be a spur to efficiency. And without efficiency, Britain's professions will wither, whatever support they continue to enjoy in Whitehall and Westminster.

To the customer these developments are wholly good. Increased competition will reduce prices. Legal redress, provided the courts exercise restraint, will improve standards and ensure that the burden of failure lies where it ought to lie. But politics cannot remain aloof much longer. Market pressure will demand legal reform of professional privilege, as it did in the City before the Big Bang. The Labour party has a strong professional base, particularly in the public sector, but need not show undue tenderness to well rewarded and powerful professions. The Conservatives, if they remain serious about the supply side of the economy, should extend the good work done on trade union monopoly to the middle classes.

For the professions themselves, the last decade of the millennium will be a critical one. Hard questions have to be asked, difficult dilemmas must be grappled with, so that increased competition really does make for a better service for the customer. Next Monday we examine the fate of the accountants.

What is particularly damaging in the eyes of French voters is not the cynicism of expelling the unwanted patient; government has long been seen as a dirty business masked only by its practitioners' suave presentation. It is the cold-blooded stupidity of those at the top, who either did not know what was going on and abdicated responsibility or knew and were lying. They have made laughing-stock of the state — "the state goes mad," as *Libération* declared.

For the French, the smooth functioning of the body politic has long been a source of pride. Senior officials, educated at the *grandes écoles*, are expected to be efficient, sophisticated, ruthless if necessary, but above all capable of acting in France's interests. Now the administrative organs have brought ridicule upon themselves, and France has lost face among its allies and in the Middle East. On the eve of an important United Nations summit, President Mitterrand suffered a cruel blow to his pride and credibility.

France is a power in Europe, in the Middle East and in the United Nations Security Council. Its views need to be clear and coherent. George Habash has performed another act of terrorism in blowing up public confidence, aided and abetted by bungling at the heart of the French government.

## Challenging the Tories on taxes

From Mr Giles Radice, MP for Durham North (Labour)

Sir, By telling the House of Commons (report, January 29) that there "will be no VAT increase" Mr Major has undermined the credibility of the Conservative party's fiscal arithmetic. In addition to plans for increasing public spending (£25 billion, the Henley Centre at £25 billion), the Conservatives are also promising both to eliminate the Budget deficit and to reduce income tax from 25p to 20p. The combined cost of these last two comes to at least £3 billion, making £50 billion in all. The only way that all these commitments add up is if the Tories increase indirect taxes, above all VAT.

In the past, Conservative spokesmen have always kept their options open by using the time-honoured formula that they had "no plans to increase value-added tax". This was understandable because, of course, under recent Conservative governments, VAT has been increased from 8 per cent to 17.5 per cent. Indeed, the Conservative 1991 campaign guide actually says that one of the key Tory objectives is "to switch the burden of taxation, to some extent, from taxes on earnings to taxes on spending".

Now the prime minister has categorically denied that a Conservative government would raise VAT. Sir Geoffrey Howe made a similar denial before the 1979 election, after which he put up VAT from 8 per cent to 15 per cent. But if Mr Major is sincere in his pledge, it follows that he will have to abandon his commitment to balance the Budget and reduce income tax to 20 per cent. He cannot have it both ways.

Yours faithfully,  
GILES RADICE,  
House of Commons.  
January 29.

From Mr Roland Sperry-Jones

Sir, To compare the socialist proposal to increase National Insurance contributions with the Maxwell pension fund is probably over the top but Dr Torrance (letter, January 29) misses the point. If National Insurance contributions are to fund national insurance, then they should rightly be a per capita charge.

The dishonesty in the socialist approach is to pretend that removing the National Insurance contribution ceiling is not as much as increasing higher rates of income tax. It is that presentation which is essentially dishonest, together with the blatant vote-buying which says to nine out of ten people vote for us and our increased spending will not cost you a penny. This is simply a permutation of Denis Healey's "we will tax the rich until they squeal".

I do not entirely subscribe to the view that all taxation is legalised theft. In a civilised society we pay taxes partly in order to assist those in genuine poverty. The problem with the socialist dogma is that the increased taxation they are proposing is to be spent wastefully in a non-discriminatory (i.e., non-means-tested) manner.

Yours faithfully,  
ROLAND SPERRY-JONES,  
8 The Gateway, Woodham,  
Woking, Surrey.  
January 29.

## Student funding

From the President of the National Union of Students

Sir, The findings of the Mori poll (report, January 30) showing that parents would be "willing to pay top-up fees" for their children's higher education cannot be taken seriously when 30 per cent of parents now fail even to make the assessed contribution to top up their maintenance grants.

Yours sincerely,  
STEPHEN TWIGG, President,  
National Union of Students,  
Nelson Mandela House,  
461 Holloway Road, N7.  
January 30.

## Legal-aid fees

From Mr Ian Kelcey

Sir, The Lord Chancellor, in his letter of January 24, refers to the average payment per legal-aid case having risen by 81 per cent. My understanding is that that payment includes remuneration to solicitors for attending police stations, following the bringing into force of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

Solicitors are now under an obligation to attend the police stations and clients have the right to free legal advice when in custody.

This, of course, was a piece of legislation which this government was responsible for implementing. If the Lord Chancellor's figures include payment for this service it is hardly surprising that there has been a large percentage increase.

It is therefore the Lord Chancellor's intention that solicitors in private practice should be asked to subsidise the cost of implementation of this Act?

Yours faithfully,  
IAN KELCEY,  
Kelcey & Hall (solicitors),  
Fosters Chambers,  
17 Small Street,  
Bristol, Avon.  
January 24.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

11 Putney Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Case for competition on the railways

From Mr P. J. Coster

Sir, Oh dear! And just when I had thought that more enlightened attitudes might be brought to bear on the future of rail transport than those of the Marples-Beeching era, too!

There may indeed be two routes to Scotland as your second leader proclaims ("Mr Riffkind's folly", January 27); but a glance at the map will show that there is only one route to the intermediate cities, Newcastle or Leeds for instance, on one route, or Liverpool or Manchester on the other, and to many other centres of considerable greater significance for BR's income than Edinburgh or Glasgow. The same principle applies to towns lying between London and Southend, for instance.

It is this shortsighted policy which has removed a number of routes which might by now be providing a useful service to a number of provincial towns, and has impaired other routes.

The Salisbury-Exeter route, for example, has been reduced largely to single track and its operational flexibility all but ruined: it would cost a fortune to make good the damage.

The rail network as a whole has a far greater value than the sum of its parts. It is important that, however owned, it should act as a single coherent part of the nation's transport infrastructure. Competition is only meaningful when a customer is offered a choice of carrier and routes at the point of sale.

How are the recreated GWR, LMSR, SR, and LNER to compete with one another when the purposes which each serve are so different? One might as well try to compare two airlines operating in different parts of the world.

However, if the rail user could choose between services of, say, the LNER reincarnated, Virgin, BAA, Marks & Spencer, and others, running over the same route, then we have true competition. Mr Riffkind's decision to open the rail network to

private carriers, passenger or freight, is a step in the right direction.

Yours sincerely,  
P. J. COSTER,  
The Jointure, 15 South Street,  
Ditchling, Sussex.

From Mr Lawrence Marshall

Sir, Contrary to the view stated by your leader-writer, fairly healthy competition exists between the west-coast main line to Scotland and its east-coast counterpart. The latter is winning at the moment, but BR's plans to upgrade the former (stymied while the French state railway treasuries money from the markets in London) should help to up the ante.

You failed to note that those wishing to travel between Edinburgh and Glasgow now have a choice between InterCity and Regional Railways. The ludicrous and quite fatal decision by BR to single-track Scotland's busiest junction at Newton to the south of Glasgow — a project largely driven by InterCity to speed its trains up there, irrespective of the impact on local services — and the current delays being experienced over that stretch of track have certainly not helped InterCity.

However, the passengers on InterCity for the journeys between Glasgow and Edinburgh and vice versa can usually be counted on one hand. Most still opt for the Regional Railways service which existed before competition was introduced.

The "golden age" of the railways, when competition from other modes of transport barely existed, brought with it only something like six daytime trains between Edinburgh and London. BR, in the guise of InterCity, now operates that number by 10 o'clock in the morning (the total daytime service numbers 17, even in winter). It was also difficult in those days to travel between Aberdeen and Plymouth without changing trains. From today's perspective, that golden age has rather the appearance of fool's gold.

Yours sincerely,

LAWRENCE MARSHALL,  
53 (3F1) King's Road,  
Portobello, Edinburgh 15.

### Flying the right flag for Europe

From Mr Desmond Harvey

Sir, As the Community is clearly with us and we with it, is it not time to give thought to re-designing that uninspiring flag whose principal virtue seems to be that, child-like, one can stick more stars on as new members appear? It is bloodless and boring.

Television graphics have had some better ideas: one had miniature national flags in place of the stars — far more interesting and colourful, and retaining at least some connection with the constituent national states (surely not to be extinguished entirely). Another, more complex, had the stars still ranged around but with all the flags set in a mosaic in the centre.

Another thought would be to have each national flag set in the top left-hand corner, as the Union Jack is in the old Dominion flags, with a different version for each member state, just as the new Community passport has a different cover from country to country.

Yours faithfully,

DESMOND HARVEY,  
16 Stafford Terrace, W8.  
January 31.

### Poll tax spending

From Councillor Graham Tope

Sir, In the continuing political debate about the unfairness of the poll tax, one aspect of the whole fiasco has gone virtually unreported — the arbitrary way in which the government has set spending levels and grants for some local authorities.

The government has set ceilings on Sutton's spending which forced it to lose £1.5 million from this year's budget, and next year we are having to save a further £8 million. On a budget of little more than £100 million, cuts of that proportion are nothing short of disastrous. Education and social services account for two thirds of our spending, and are inevitably having to bear the main impact.

If Sutton was one of the high-spending, profligate authorities that Mr Heseltine so often criticises, there might just be some justification. But we spend £561 per head on our residents compared with £629 with our neighbour and very similar borough, Kingston-upon-Thames. In fact Sutton is the fourth lowest-spending borough in London. If we were allowed to spend the same as Kingston, we would have to make do with at all.

In addition, our government grant per adult compared with £534 for Kingston. If we had the same grant as Kingston, we would receive £6 million more. Is Tory Kingston so different from Liberal Democrat Sutton? Perhaps Mr Major could explain to the poll tax payers in the borough where he was born and went to school how such inequality is creating a fair and just society.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM TOPE (Leader),  
Sutton Council,  
Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way,  
Sutton, Surrey.

### Origins of skiing

From Mr E. R. S. Fifoot

Sir, Support for the view that skis were introduced to the Alps from Norway (letters, January 27, February 1) is given by Henry T. Newton Cheshire in his *Recollections of a Five Years' Residence in Norway* (London, 1861). What he calls snow-shoes are clearly skis. "Flat pieces of wood... about ten feet six in length, and four inches in breadth, the ends turned up like stakes". He says: "One of the Chamois [sic] guides, who spent a winter in Norway, was quite charmed with the snow-shoes; I saw him, on his return to his native land, bearing a whole heap of these articles and stakes, and I have no doubt he introduced the use of them into Scotland". My father, when a youth, was often skinned with them at first, but on this, I daresay he does Mount Blanc downwards in a couple of minutes on his Norsk acquisition.

Yours etc.,  
E. R. S. FIFOOT,  
Castle View, Bridge Street,  
Bampton, Oxfordshire.

From Sir John Lawrence

Sir, If I may believe my own father, the late Sir Alexander Lawrence, he won the public schools' skiing championship in Switzerland in 1891. The standard was not very high in those days. He said the



## OBITUARIES

## VICE-ADMIRAL SIR NORMAN DALTON

Vice-Admiral Sir Norman Dalton, KCB, OBE, Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet, 1957-59, and Director-General of Training, 1959-60, died on January 27 aged 87. He was born on February 1, 1904.

NORMAN Dalton was probably the last engineering officer survivor of the original Fisher scheme of training, introduced at the beginning of the century, in which all officers were required (in Fisher's words) to have "some community of knowledge and a lifelong community of sentiment". But he remained loyal to that policy despite its abrogation by the Admiralty soon after the end of the first world war, in what came to be known as the "Great Betrayal" of the Fisher ideal. And he lived long enough to see it reintroduced in the context of the hard lessons learned in the second world war during which 20 years of Admiralty neglect of the engineering branch revealed embarrassing technical shortcomings when Royal Navy ships came to fight alongside their US counterparts in the vast expanses of the Pacific.

Dalton had valuable immersion in the air side of the Royal Navy and his experience of aircraft engineering in the post-war years made him convinced that the gas turbine would some day provide the main propulsion for warships (as Fisher had himself far-sightedly suggested to Sir Charles Parsons that they might, in the far-off days before the first world war). Dalton lived long enough to see his convictions bear fruit in the largely gas-turbined warship fleet which fought the battle for the Falklands in 1982, showing a mobility undreamed of during the years 1939-45 when the Royal Navy's ships were bedevilled by propulsion shortcomings and consequently had their endurance at sea greatly reduced.

Joining the Royal Navy in 1917,



Dalton volunteered for engineering duties and joined the battleship *Malaya* as a midshipman before doing his engineering training at Keyham.

Subsequently, after some sea time in the aircraft carrier *Furious*, he went through the advanced engineering course at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

After a further period in the old coal-burning battleship *Benbow* he went to HMS *Rodney*, a new and potentially powerful battleship designed unashamedly emasculated as a result of the 1921 Washington naval

treaty and its limit of 35,000 tons on new battleships (a curb the Japanese and Germans subsequently defiantly ignored).

He had further valuable professional experience ashore and a teaching appointment at Greenwich before being posted to London in 1939 as a professional secretary to the naval engineer-in-chief. He helped in the transfer of the engineer-in-chief's department to Bath and subsequently played an important part as London liaison officer between the machinations of the (now rusticated)

department and the operations and plans division in London. His charm and professional knowledge did much to smooth the eternal tension between the need for serviceability in the fleet and operational requirements, as well as between the two divisions in London and the Bath machinery designers.

In 1944 he became engineer-in-chief of the carrier HMS *Victorious*, serving in the East Indies and the Pacific during the last bloody and hard-fought months of the war against Japan. This final phase of the Pacific war was a tough time for the Royal Navy's engineers, who had to work overtime in hellish tropical conditions below decks to enable their obsolete propulsion machinery to give an adequate account of itself alongside the technically superior US Navy.

The enormous expansion of the Fleet Air Arm and its importance in fleet operations required that some of the best naval engineering brains should be applied to naval aircraft requirements — until then the poor relation of the RAF — and to the maintenance of aircraft serviceability at sea. After a conversion course Dalton became successively staff air engineer officer to the flag officer, flying training, followed by spells as assistant and deputy director of aircraft maintenance and repair.

Following this spell in the air world Dalton was appointed assistant engineer-in-chief with wide responsibilities for the officer and rating training of all technical personnel other than for the newly forming electrical branch. As chairman of the Dalton committee he reviewed and revised the whole concept of the training of (the then) stoker mechanics branch.

Promoted rear admiral in 1954, he became deputy engineer-in-chief, the following year, with wide responsibilities for the design of all propulsion and ancillary machinery and its operational serviceability at sea.

Here, his aircraft experience was invaluable; such innovations as the Ship Maintenance Authority owed much to his view that ships, like aircraft, needed a constant watch on their problems if maximum serviceability was to be achieved.

When he became Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet in 1957 the winds of change were already blowing and a reversion to the Fisher concept of a general list of officers was already in its early and difficult infancy. Like his friend and predecessor, the late Vice-Admiral Sir Frank Mason, Dalton loyally accepted changes not universally approved by some of his subordinates and did much to bring calm to an often tempestuous period.

More change was to come and a year later the establishment of the Ship Department left him with no purely technical responsibilities and the navy with no-one directly responsible for optimum mobility. However, his talents were still in need and, while he remained as a sort of "tribal chief" of all mechanical engineers with the title of chief naval engineer officer, he became the first director-general of training of the whole navy.

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## APPRECIATIONS

## Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edgar Lowe

ed him as their protector against "boffins", a breed of doubtful value who invaded Whitehall in droves in the 1940s.

Those who knew him will miss Neechi. He was a good man, a kind and understanding superior officer and an outstanding member of his



service. Had he been a general duties officer he would have risen to the very top. But he did not complain about that or anything else.

Robin Jasper

## Rear-Admiral Grace Hopper

DURING a visit to America some 20 years ago I was privileged to attend a talk given by Grace Hopper (obituary, January 4) on the use and abuse of computing terminology. At the start of her talk, which was in a light-hearted vein, Grace produced a container of short lengths of wire, which was then emptied onto the table, out much to the chagrin of her audience. They knew he was absolutely straight and reliable, brilliant both in planning and in day to day administration.

Most notably, they regard-

which time everyone was bursting with curiosity, she held up a strand of the wire stating: "This is a nano-second," a remark that met with blank looks from her audience. With a twinkle in her eye she then told all of the delegates to take a piece of the wire and if ever asked to explain a nano-second our reply was to be that it was the time taken for electricity to pass from one end of the wire to the other.

Simple yet effective and I still have my piece of wire but am still awaiting the opportunity to use it.

D. Moore

At the end of the talk, by

## GEN VERNON E. MEGEE

General Vernon E. Megee, one of the pioneers of close air support for ground forces, died on January 14 aged 91. He was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1900.

VERNON Megee was a US marine for 40 years, enlisting in 1919 and ending his career in 1959 as commanding general of the Fleet Marine Force in the Pacific. When he began, the Marine Air Corps hardly existed and he had to undergo his pilot training at navy aviation schools in San Diego and Pensacola and at an Army Air Corps school in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1930 Megee was sent to Nicaragua to support the ruling regime against Sandinista rebels and suffered badly from enemy ground fire. It may have been his Nicaraguan experience which led him to help develop the technique of close ground support during the second world war, using radio signals from troops on the ground to direct air strikes against enemy positions.

He became the first com-

mander of a marine landing force air support control unit and commanded the air support units at Okinawa and Iwo Jima. During the second engagement he became known in the corps for his orders to the marine pilots: "Go in and scrape your bellies on the beach."

Megee took part in the Korean war as commander of the First Marine Aircraft Wing and among other decorations won the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star. He became the first aviator to serve as assistant commandant and chief of staff of the corps at its Washington headquarters, served on the staff of the War College and was director of intelligence for the joint chiefs of staff.

His education had been interrupted by enlistment, but Megee completed his undergraduate degree 30 years later. After retirement he went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and served as the first superintendent of the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas. He leaves a daughter.

## FEB 3 ON THIS DAY 1933

*This was another highly successful stage partnership, between the two leading members of the cast in a play that ran for a year, a long time for a historical drama of that calibre. It was necessary to dig deep into the notice to find reference to John Gielgud, but it was worth the waiting.*

## NEW THEATRE

"RICHARD OF BORDEAUX" by Gordon Daviot

Richard II Anne of Bohemia John Gielgud  
Duke of Gloucester Gwen Francon-Davies  
Duke of Lancaster Eric Stanley  
Sir Simon Burley Ben Webster  
Duke of York George Howe  
Michael de la Pole... Kinsey Pele  
Earl of Arundel H. R. Hignett  
Robert de Vere... Frederick Lloyd  
Mary Bohem... Francis Lister  
Agnes Lancast... Margaret Webster  
Henry, Earl of Derby... Barbara Dillon  
Thomas Mowbray... Henry Mollison  
Sir John Montague... Donald Wolfit  
John Maudlyn... Walter Hudd  
Edward, Earl of Rutland... Richard Ainsley  
Thomas Arundel... Clement McCallin  
Doctor... Reyner Baron  
Ralph Truman

In a performance of this play at the Arts Theatre some time ago its merits strongly appeared. Vigorous in movement in its dialogue, modern but without anachronistic flourishes and, in its search of human nature, watchful and diligent, it held its own as a piece for the theatre and as an interpretation of history. But it had then a defect that damaged it: the change in Richard was represented as a disintegration, the disintegration was attributed almost exclusively to the Queen's death, and the Queen herself was not made important enough to sustain so heavy a burden of dramatic motive.

By a shift of emphasis, this defect has been removed. The spiritual range of Miss Francon-Davies's distinguished portrait has been a little increased. At the same time the King's failure has been attributed less to the removal of her influence and more to other causes - to his weariness of power, to a consequent rashness of judgment, and, above all, to the exhaustion of those

## Ronald Hoar

## Church seeking to achieve unity with diversity

Separation and secession seem to have become the order of the day. It began with the Eastern European countries, then the Soviet Socialist Republics took up the theme. In Yugoslavia it has flared into a bloody struggle. Now, even clerics suggest that Fundamentalists and Liberals in their churches should go their separate ways.

By contrast, we have recently had the Churches coming together in the newly-formed bodies for the separate countries within Great Britain, with the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland as an overall responsible body. We also have the coming of the single market in 1992 and it is in October each year that we celebrate the founding of the United Nations, with its great aim of holding nations of the world together in peaceful unity.

The United Nations Organization began in Central Hall, Westminster where the Methodist Church has some of its divisional offices and I dare to suggest that Methodism may have something to offer in the ongoing debate as to how independence and unity can go hand in hand. Next year the Church will celebrate the diamond jubilee of the union of its many different strands: which had separated from the original body during the years that followed the death of its founder, John Wesley. We shall also celebrate the

twentieth anniversary of the decision to admit women into the presbyterian ministry — the sort of decision that caused all kind of threats of secession among low-christians.

Methodism itself has a very chequered secessionist history. The Rev John Wesley wanted nothing of separation. He lived and died a member of the Church of England. His followers felt forced to organize themselves into a separate movement but it was not long before that movement experienced differences of opinion that splintered it. A fear that the new movement had quickly forgotten its roots; an urgency to take the gospel message to those outside the Church rather than remain within the institution; an objection to strong central rule; a division of opinion about whether lay people should take authority or whether that should be left entirely to clergy, all brought separate movements. At one time, there was a positive confusion of Methodist strands.

Thank goodness a move towards some kind of unity began during the nineteenth century and some of the smaller splinter groups came together in the United Methodist Church at the beginning of the next. This left three main streams of Methodism: the United, the Primitive, and the Wesleyan Methodist Churches.

These three united to form the present British Methodist Church in 1932.

But what a mixture! There were those who had a high sacramental view of ministry and those who regarded the minister as little more than a full-time layman. There was some tension as to how far people should be vested in a central authority and how far in the local church. Property, which had been erected at a phenomenal rate in a kind of competitive atmosphere, now needed rationalising. Then there was the place of women in the Church and in the ministry and for far too long, following union, it was considered that they should not be ministers but could be deaconesses.

Many of those tensions still exist but the Church holds together. Now and again it is threatened with the idea that there should be separate movements: two strongly debated issues at the moment concern those who have varying views about human sexuality and those who feel that the Church is not doing enough for race relations. Thus we cannot afford to be smug or content but must continue to work hard at maintaining our unity and the diversity within it.

The query comes as to how that unity has so far been maintained and it is possibly for five particular

reasons. The first is the sense of a common origin, that we all relate back to John Wesley and his emphasis on the need for "a warmed heart". This was Wesley's way of expressing his experience and belief that religion should be a vital thing and not just a case of observances. The second is what might be called a "family ethos"; the sense of belonging to one family wherever one might go throughout the country or, indeed, throughout the world, among the 50 million Methodist community. This ethos is partly created by the way in which ministers are moved to new "stations", every five years or so, thus linking different areas of the country through friendships which are formed. But it is the sense of being among more than friends rather, sisters and brothers.

A third factor is that we have no tightly defined creedal base. We subscribe to the great Christian creeds and then emphasize aspects like the need for Christian fellowship, the importance of a devotional life and the fact that the Christian faith should be applied in every day life and practice. The fourth contribution to our sense of unity must be our organization, though at times, this can easily get in the way. The endeavour is to link all our churches together in a "connectional" system so that the Church can speak as

whole and with authority from the centre. At the same time it is designed to give a certain freedom to those very same churches. It also links British Methodism to the Church throughout the world, maintaining an enriching two-way flow of information, exchanges and ideas.

The fifth aspect is, therefore, very important. We try to maintain a process of consultation in all the major decisions we make so that the Conference, the Church's governing body, has the views and resolutions of the local churches whenever decisions on our faith, order and policy have to be made.

Of course, some complain that we spend so much time in consultation that there are inbuilt channels to escape decision-making. The case is different. When the Church comes to a mind, all should feel that their views have been heard; and what a variety of experience and history we have on tap! Wesley required of his followers that they should speak their piece both in his societies and in society at large. We were always a diverse people but it enriches our union.

The Rev Ronald Hoar is President of the Methodist Conference.

# Struggling airlines offer £89 flights to New York

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

SCHEDULED air tickets from London to New York were being sold last night for £89 — £3 less than the cut-price offers of Sir Freddie Laker's Skytrain which collapsed ten years ago.

North America Travel Service, based in Leeds, said that the fares were not a sales gimmick and that they would be on offer for eight weeks. The fare is only £2 more than the first class single train fare from Edinburgh to London. It is based on the purchase of a return ticket making the round trip

£178 plus US airport tax on the journey home.

Airlines compete fiercely each winter to hang on to their share of a market which dries up after Christmas. Most of their offers are hedged with conditions and few low price seats are available.

This year the fight is tougher than ever, with tour operators like North America Travel Service being offered bigger discounts and more seats than before.

The airlines have been forced to make the cuts because seven million fewer

passengers flew on European carriers last year than in the previous 12 months. At the aircraft storage park in the Mojave desert, 100 miles north of Los Angeles, California, 175 passenger jets, a record number, are being stored to await better times.

The Association of European Airlines, which represents the 22 biggest scheduled airlines in Europe, said that the 6 per cent drop in passenger numbers in 1991 was "unprecedented in the post-war history of the industry". In

the 1973 and 1980 recess

sions they lost less than 1 per cent of passengers.

The scrap value of many aircraft is now higher than on the secondhand market, where prices have fallen by at least 30 per cent in the past 12 months.

Throughout the world, airlines lost more than \$2 billion last year, and although there has been some improvement in recent weeks, the average number of people carried fell to little more than 60 per cent.

Fuel prices are still 20 per cent higher than before the Iraq war, labour costs are up 11 per cent, and insurance, premium and navigation charges both up by around 20 per cent. Interest charges have soared, and airlines are reducing drastically the number of aircraft they have on order.

The last thing they want is further price cuts. Every £89 ticket to New York represents a loss to the airline, which probably sold it to the travel agency for £10 less. It is, however, better than flying with empty seats.

By free, L&T, page 1

## 300 feared dead in snow as avalanches bury villages

FROM KEMAL DURU OF REUTER IN GORMEC, SOUTHEASTERN TURKEY

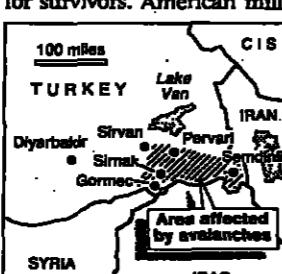
THE avalanche struck like an explosion. "Nobody could escape," Ali Ergen, the headman of Gormec village, said yesterday as rescue workers, listening for faint cries from survivors, probed snow burying the homes of 40 Kurdish families.

Working in arctic cold, searchers found 26 bodies yesterday meaning that at least 142 people died in weekend snowfalls in Turkey's three eastern provinces. About 150 were still missing. Seventy-one paramilitary gendarmes were found dead in Gormec, perched on the wintry slopes of Mount Gabar, nine miles southwest of Sirnak on Saturday.

"It was three o'clock in the morning when we heard a roar from the upper end of the village," Mr Ergen said. "One house collapsed and 60 or 70 people immediately fled the village in fear. At about seven o'clock, people were sweeping snow off their roofs when we heard another explosion. Nobody could escape. Snow covered the whole village."

Mr Ergen and his immediate family were buried up to their necks, but dug their way out. Many of their relatives are missing.

Gormec village, where 258 poverty-stricken people lived by grazing sheep and goats, vanished under Saturday morning's big slide. Yesterday nothing of it could be seen above the snow. Tractors dragged cars loaded with the dead in wooden coffins to a landing area for helicopters to take to Sirnak and villages nearby.



Twenty helicopters ferried at least 17 survivors to the regional capital of Diyarbakir, about 16 miles east of Sirnak, Dohusalkin, near the town of Pervari in Sirt, and Halenze, near the town of Sirvan.

An American spokesman said that 13 American aircraft and 54 military personnel were helping. They come from an allied force deployed in Turkey to protect the Kurds of northern Iraq from attack by President Saddam Hussein.

In neighbouring Sirt province, the bodies of five gendarmes were found at a post

today. helicopters ferried to 17 survivors to the regional capital of Diyarbakir, according to a statement from the joint American-Turkish base at Incirlik in southern Turkey.

Two gendarmes died on Saturday at their post near Uludere, close to the Iraqi border. Three villagers were killed at Ortakar, southwest of Semendili in the far east of Turkey. One was rescued there and 15 others were found alive at Yukselova in the same region.

Eleven civilians were reported killed on Saturday in the villages of Alrikemer, about 16 miles east of Sirnak, Dohusalkin, near the town of Pervari in Sirt, and Halenze, near the town of Sirvan.

Mr Patten recalled that Mr Kinnock had called Mrs Thatcher a nuclearphiliac

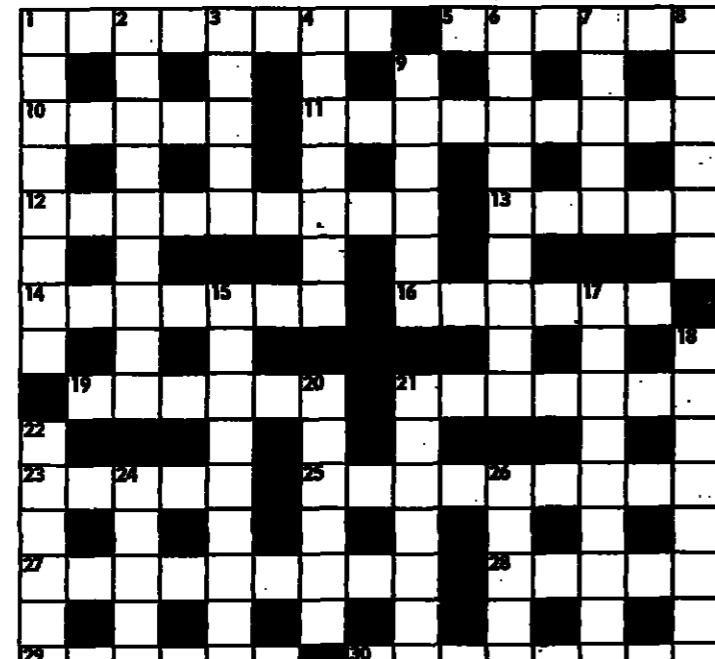
and had seen no difference in the threat posed by the United States and the USSR. His judgment had been proved wrong then, and might be wrong again.

• Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, last night demanded an enquiry into what he claimed was sinister tampering with MPs' computers at the House of Commons.

More snow is forecast today.

Peter Riddell, Diary, page 12

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18.831



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard  
LITERARIES

VIC WARSHAWSKI

a. A Polish poet

b. A science fiction fantasist

c. A Chicago private detective

SIMON FORMAN

a. A Shakespearean astrologer

b. Translator of Herodotus

c. Writer of *Horrors*

ELIZABETH DRAPER

a. American disease

b. The original blue-stocking

c. Love of Stere's

WILLIAM LILY

a. Poet friend of Oscar Wilde

b. Latin grammarian

c. Character in *Brideshead Revisited*

Answers on Life & Times 11

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M-ways/roads M23-M44  
M25 London Orbital only 736

National 737  
National motorways 738  
West Country 739  
Wales 740  
Midlands 741  
East Anglia 742  
North-west England 743  
North-east England 744  
Scotland 745  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

The Concise crossword is on page 11 of Life & Times

### ACROSS

- A swimmer confined to bed opened up (6).
- Spaniard — a bit of a wimp — a blockhead (5).
- Transport and plant round lake (6).
- Woolly-minded needlewomen (8).
- Done with 24, due to lack of attention (9).
- Confident about a Shakespearean role (5).
- A romance turned one on, bringing delight (7).
- Meant to transform the exterior of some home (9).
- An announcer in tears? (5).
- Catch up the German boat (6).
- Local news broadcaster (6).
- Phone without hesitation about the last application by a builder (9).
- Band involved in awful mêlée is to be corrected (9).
- "Let my due feet never fail to wear the ... cloister's pale" (Milton) (8).
- A simple catalogue (6).
- RAF officer demanding entrance (7).
- They come below the knees in near youngsters (6).
- Reason a nurse takes directions (5).
- Trendy place to feed in (5).

### PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,830 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker.

The Concise crossword is on page 11 of Life & Times

## Yeltsin returns to face a civil war

Continued from page 1 down on Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, from the nearby town of Shusha, which is controlled by Azerbaijanis, and an Armenian village near Shusha also came under heavy fire from Azerbaijani armoured cars.

Hussein Sadikhov, the Azerbaijani foreign minister, said in Turkey yesterday that he would be prepared to meet his Armenian counterpart to discuss the worsening conflict, in which dozens of people are said to have died during the weekend.

The head of the enclave's foreign affairs committee, who returned to Moscow from the region last night, said that he would urge senior Russian officials to do everything they could to force the Azerbaijanis to drop their determination to expel the 180,000 ethnic Armenians.

Mr Yeltsin will have to move carefully over the enclave dispute, which raises grave questions about the viability of the commonwealth or which Russia is the centrepiece. The Armenian cause enjoys widespread support in Moscow, but the Russian leader will also be aware that any change in the enclave's status could set a precedent for the 16 "mini-republics" within Russia, which want greater autonomy.

Mr Yeltsin must also bear in mind that President Matalibov of Azerbaijan is facing protests in Baku, the capital, from groups that want him to take an even tougher line against Armenia. Mr Matalibov's replacement by Turkish nationalists or Muslim extremists would be unwelcome in Moscow.

Mr Yeltsin must resolve the bitter dispute between Russia and Ukraine over control of the Black Sea fleet. This conflict forced him to go to the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk last week just as the Middle East peace talks were taking place in Moscow.

The Russian leader will also have to tread a fine line over the economy. About 200 Russian nationalists demonstrated near the Kremlin yesterday to denounce Mr Yeltsin's economic reforms and in another protest a few hundred communists called for a return to Marxist values.

About 2,000 activists of the Democratic Russia Movement and other liberal groups also gathered at the weekend and pledged to overcome their internal squabbles in the face of a mounting conservative threat. Groups from monarchists to Stalinists are hoping to make the most of the economic hardship caused by the Yeltsin reforms.

Era of trust, page 10



Old guard remembered: A woman carrying a picture of Lenin during a communist demonstration in Red Square in Moscow yesterday

Southwest Wales and southwest England will have patchy rain. The rest of England and Wales and Northern Ireland will have sunny periods and showers, wintry on high ground. Northern Ireland, northwest England, Wales and central England will become cloudy with rain, with snow on hills this evening. Scotland will be sunny with wintry showers and snow in the Highlands. Outlook: rain, after snow on hills in north; then drier and milder.

	Sun hrs	Rain hrs	Max F
Aleppo	2.4	—	48 bright
Akrotiri	9.48	—	55 cloudy
Akrotiri	10.50	1.1	51 bright
Algiers	12.55	—	45 rain
Amsterdam	1.35	—	52 log
Athens	9.55	—	50 log
Athens	10.50	—	50 log
Bangkok	19.55	—	55 log
Barbados	2.48	—	52 log
Berlin	10.50	—	50 log
Berlin	11.50	—	50 log
Berlin	12.50	—	50 log
Berlin	13.50	—	50 log
Berlin	14.50	—	50 log
Bordeaux	2.55	—	52 log
Bordeaux	3.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	4.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	5.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	6.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	7.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	8.50	—	52 log
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Bordeaux	38.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	39.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	40.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	41.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	42.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	43.50	—	52 log
Bordeaux	44.50		



## SMALLER COMPANIES

## BZW puts laggards in the spotlight

THE smaller companies team at Barclays de Zoete Wedd has focused on the likely laggards of 1992, choosing those most likely to underperform this year.

There is no suggestion that any of these companies is unlikely to survive the year. Indeed, some constituents of BZW's class of '91—including Etam, HP Bulmer, FR Group and Next—confounded the experts and substantially outperformed their sectors. But BZW's latest list bands together companies whose prospects are not good.

In the textiles sector the analysts single out Alexandra Workwear, which suffers from poor demand, high gearing and negative cash flow. Jerome, which needs to sell its electrical business to meet working capital requirements; and Hollas Group.

Likely underperformers in media and agencies, says BZW, are HTV, Yorkshire TV and Anglia, who face hefty franchise payments, and WPP, Saatchi & Saatchi and Shandwick, each handicapped by weak balance sheets. Laggards in print and packaging will include HunterPrint, still getting to grips with financial pressures, and Watmough, whose share performance may have run ahead of events. There will also be pressure on Ferguson Industries, Delyn and APL.

Transport's weak link is expected to be Powell Duffryn, whose high yield could be threatened by poor medium-term prospects. BZW expects the leisure sector as a whole to outperform after two years of struggle but highlights the difficulties faced by Buckingham International, because of high debts, poor trading overseas and delays with disposals.

JS Pathology is tipped to underperform the booming health and household sector because of links with the Middle East where resources have been diverted to rebuilding. Brammer and Bridon could be excluded from a recovery in the engineering sector.

Plaxtons and Trimco are two to avoid in motors because of poor recovery prospects; King & Shaxson and Harvey & Thompson have little to commend them in the financial sector while Eurotherm, which outperformed other electronics companies by 45 per cent last year, may pause for consolidation.

MARTIN BARROW

## CUT-THROAT

## Yield trends predict good catch for the early bird

After registering good returns last year, the gilt market looks set for an even better time in 1992. Long yields are heading down to 8 per cent.

Are there risks? Of course—that is why the market is not there already. It takes a long time to persuade markets that a radical change in the fundamentals has taken place. This is surprising, for it is only with the benefit of hindsight that the fundamental trends are crystal clear. At the time, each minor reversal can seem like a shift of trend.

In early 1982, for example, the proximate factor holding back the market (before the Falklands war) was the rapid growth of money supply. Having been led to believe excessive monetary growth was the source of all evil, it was difficult to wean the market off its regular monetary feed. But as inflation continued to fall despite rapid monetary growth, this happened.

The comparable bogeyman now is the PSBR. The government has lambasted us for so long with the need for restraint on public borrowing, and the market has grown so used to a falling stock of gilts, that it seems hard to swallow.

## BCCI global fund publication delay worries creditors

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

DEPOSITORS of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International are becoming increasingly nervous about the continuing delays over publication of details of a \$3 billion worldwide compensation scheme.

Touche Ross, the bank's liquidators, said in the High

Court the scheme would be revealed by the end of January, but sources now suggest nothing will be released for at least another two weeks.

Solicitors for Touché and the Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's 77 per cent shareholder, are said to be still finalising the documents al-

though the principal elements were fixed months ago. While the agreement is still confidential, it is clear the terms are not as generous as first thought.

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, is believed to have offered to inject up to \$2.2 billion into a global fund to compensate BCCI's 800,000 depositors. He is also ready to write off about \$2 billion of claims he has against the bank. However, the offers are not unconditional, as first believed.

As part of the deal, Touche has offered to write off \$4.4 billion in promissory notes, payable over the next seven years, which the Abu Dhabi government gave to BCCI as part of its restructuring early last year.

BCCI was closed last July by the Bank of England after it discovered widespread fraud. Since then, Touche has uncovered that the fraud, including concealed Treasury losses, unrecorded deposits and bad debts, has slashed the bank's assets more than 90 per cent to only \$1.1 billion.

The cash injection and the realisation of BCCI's remaining assets would allow the liquidators to repay creditors 33 per cent of their losses.

Brian Smouha, the partner from Touche who has led the negotiations, is effectively trying to swap long-term assets for an immediate cash injection. The global fund would allow Touche to pay 10 per cent dividend to depositors later this year, while depositors could wait until next century for any payout in a standard liquidation.

The failure of the global agreement could also lead to protracted and expensive litigation as depositors tried to win priority over the bank's ravaged funds. They could still turn down the offer, in the hope that they may recoup more in a longer-term operation.

## Hill Samuel advises Greece

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

HILL Samuel Bank, TSB's merchant banking arm, has been appointed as a financial adviser to the Greek government for a metropolitan railway project in northern Greece.

The merchant bank fought off substantial international competition to advise the

Greeks on the upcoming metro service in Salonika, which is the country's second largest city and a big commercial centre. The project will involve a railway through the commercial centre of Salonika, estimated to cost 60 billion drachmas (£177 million).

Achilleas Karamanlis, the Greek environment, town planning and public works minister, expects that an international consortium to undertake the project will be selected by the end of this year.

The Salonika scheme is one of a number under consideration by the Greek government, so Hill Samuel will also be hoping to play a significant role in their implementation.

Adrian Beecroft, chairman of the British Venture Capital Association, said: "Given the liquidity of independent venture capital funds, it is hardly surprising that very few firms attempted to raise capital in 1991."

The independent venture capital industry, which includes 31 and captive venture capital funds, trawled the City for huge amounts of capital during the Eighties.



Talks continue: a deal is still being finalised between the sheikh and Touche

## New capital raising falls 70%

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE huge overhang of uninvested venture capital funds resulted in new capital raising by independent venture capital firms falling 70 per cent from £850 million to £250 million last year.

The venture capital industry, which provides equity funding for unquoted companies, had funds available for investment of £1.8 billion at the start of 1991.

This is sufficient for more than three years' investment at the £532 million average annual rate of investment over the past four years.

Investment opportunities in the unquoted sector have become much scarcer as smaller companies have concentrated on survival rather than expansion.

Mr Wilkinson says the

minimum Labour has called for

for not only benefit an

estimated 4.5 million employees, but would also float

300,000 people off the

means-tested benefits and

penal marginal tax rates, pro-

vide greater incentives for

those on benefit to enter

work and encourage firms to

rely more on product and

process development. He also

sees it saving the Exchequer

## Think-tank backs minimum wage

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE introduction of a minimum wage in Britain would cause no overall loss of jobs and, in the long term, could have a positive impact on employment, according to the latest study by the Institute for Public Policy Research, the left-of-centre think-tank.

Frank Wilkinson, senior research officer in applied economics at Cambridge University and author of the report, challenges critics of the minimum wage concept, including government ministers, who argue that it would add to wage bills and reduce employment. The Labour party has proposed minimum pay of £3.40 an hour as part of statutory measure to protect wages.

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work and encourage firms to

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process development. He also

sees it saving the Exchequer

## O'Reilly looks at Mirror

Tony O'Reilly, head of the Heinz food combine and owner of Independent Newspapers in Ireland, has expressed interest in buying Mirror Group Newspapers.

He has talked to his merchant bank, Charterhouse, about an approach for the Daily Mirror publisher.

The administrators have taken the 51 per cent stake held by private Maxwell companies off the market until uncertainties over the financial position are resolved.

Mark Sebba, of Charterhouse, said yesterday Dr O'Reilly had not put together a formal bid. He is insisting on a thorough examination of the group's financial position, particularly the pension fund's £350 million loss.

## Reshape plan

McMenamy Properties, the Irish property company, has admitted it finished 1991 with negative shareholders' funds. Financial restructuring proposals should be put to shareholders before the end of March.

## Back to black

Increased rentals helped Palmerston Holdings, the property group, to return to the black with a pre-tax interim profit of £476,137 (£2.740 loss) to end-September. An interim dividend of 0.5p (1.65p) is recommended.

## Embassy falls

Embassy Property Group, the USM company, has written down the value of some properties by £6.6 million. It reports an annual pre-tax loss of £9.5 million (£1.3 million profit) to end-March. There is no dividend (5p).

## EMH loss

European Motor Holdings, the motor retail group formerly known as Cargo Control, lost £735,000 in the six months to end-September (£2.72 million lost in the previous 15 months).

## Jobs saved

More than half the jobs at Company of Designers, the USM building design consultancy that called in the receivers in January, have been saved after successful "going-concern" sales by the receiver.

## IMI contract

IMI, the engineering products group, has won a contract worth more than \$10 million to provide computer software to the US Army Reserves and National Guard.

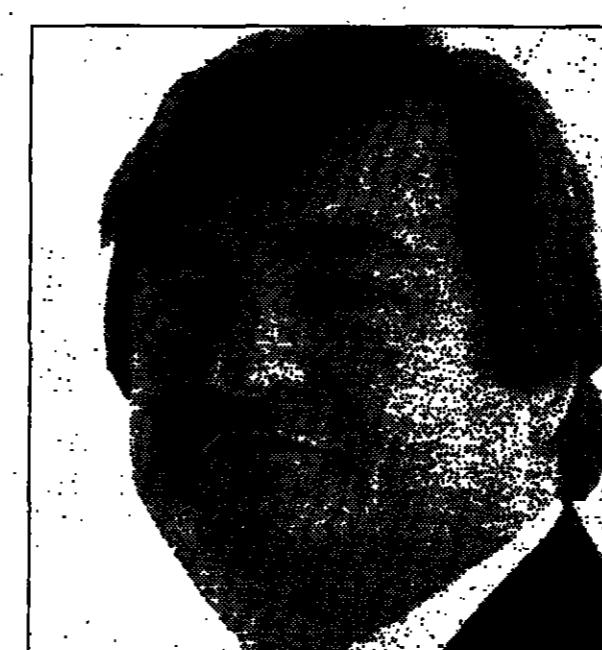
## Office chief

Robert Noonan, the former chief executive of Marler Estates, is to become chairman and chief executive of Office and Electronic Machines, after buying 14 per cent.

## CUT-THROAT

## Corporate bonds shine through American gloom

## CUT-THROAT



Rise predicted: Alan Baldwin of Securiguard

WEDNESDAY

Securiguard Group, chaired by Alan Baldwin, is expected to unveil a healthy 20 per cent advance in annual results. Pre-tax profits are forecast to rise to £4.7 million (£3.9 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Earnings per share of 15.4p (14p) and a maintained dividend of 8p are expected.

Good progress is anticipated at Securiguard's main security and cleaning businesses. However, a disappointing performance is likely in the personnel and communications operations. John Menzies, the Edinburgh newsagents chain, is expected to announce first-half pre-tax profits of £5.5 million, according to County NatWest WoodMac. This compares with profits of £200,000, although last time's figures were affected by a £4 million exceptional provision at the Hammocks book wholesaling business.

County's forecast is at the top end of market expectations that range from £2.2 million to £5.5 million. A dividend of 3.8p (3.4p) is predicted.

Interims: Black (Peter) Holdings, CRT Group, Menzies (John), Seacor Holdings, West Trust, Prudential, Old Mutual & Knight, Prudential, Far Eastern Trust, Prudential, Cleverhouse, Investors' Trust, Ramadan's (Harry), Securiguard Group, Updown Investment Co.

Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (November); advance energy statistics (December); housing starts and completions (December); details of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

THURSDAY

P&P, the computer distribution group, has suffered as the price war among the personal computer manufacturers continued. Personal computer prices are thought to have declined by about 30 per cent as manufacturers scrambled to maintain their market share.

P&P's shares halved last

October after the company issued a warning that it was unlikely to make any profit in the traditionally stronger second half. UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £1 million, compared with £13.1 million last time. A maintained dividend of 4.25p is forecast.

Interims: Jersey Phoenix Trust, Trans-National Coal Corporation. Finalists: P&P.

Economic statistics: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (January – first estimate).

FRIDAY

Interims: Independent Investment Co.

Finalists: Scottish American Investment Company.

Economic statistics: Insolvency statistics (fourth quarter).

PHILIP PANGALOS

TIMES have rarely been tougher for American industry. Last year American corporations' profits were hit by deep recession and massive restructuring, not to mention the confidence-sapping effects of war. It comes as some surprise, then, to learn that American corporate bonds offered the best returns of any fixed-interest asset class in the American market in 1991. The return on the corporate bond index was 17.4 per cent, compared with 15.38 per cent for the Treasury index and 14.01 per cent for the mortgage index.

A team from Kidder Peabody is currently in London to convince a sceptical City investment audience that US corporate bonds are going to repeat or even improve on this performance in the current year. At the core of the argument is the claim that corporate bonds have historically outperformed Treasuries during post-recession periods as investors' fear of credit risk diminishes. So far in this recession, this seems to have been the case as spreads have declined since the start of 1991. The trend during the current recession has been more marked than usual because event risk, that great bogey of corporate bond investors, was all but eliminated by the collapse of the junk bond market.

Improved liquidity also bodes well for the corporate bond market. This has partly come about through a significant increase in new issues, which reached a record \$450 billion last year and is forecast by Kidder to pass the \$500 billion barrier this year. With this proviso, Kidder is adamant that US corporate bonds "should outperform" in the current year. It will be fascinating to see how British institutions, which are reluctant investors in British corporate bonds, let alone those of foreign companies, respond to the message.

JONATHAN PRYNN

## THE TIMES

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## Election blight reaches the City

From the state of the stock market, investors might judge that the traditional blight of election uncertainty was just one of those myths brokers trot out to explain otherwise mystifying share price movements. After falling right through the autumn, when opinion polls were against the government and a November election was a real option, the FT-SE 100 share index has climbed 9 per cent since mid-December, recovering most of the losses since its August peak. Only hindsight will be able to judge if that includes an uncertainty discount or whether the delayed recovery on both sides of the Atlantic would in any case have led to an autumn correction.

Since the autumn, two things have changed. The government's opinion poll ratings greatly improved as its propaganda machine got into full swing. At the same time, brokers and commentators who looked at the implications of a Labour victory, or even a hung parliament, generally concluded that the macroeconomic impact might be less than catastrophic. That must be reassuring to the many money-movers whose working lives have not yet encompassed a change of government. Rightly or wrongly, the prospect of sharply higher government borrowing, which is also likely to feature in Norman Lamont's Budget plans, barely seems to warrant a raised eyebrow, though it would have roused horror in bankers' parlours less than three years ago.

At the micro level, only privatised utility stocks have really suffered political damage. Even then, the deprivations of regulators may be more significant for some than the impact of a change of government, which might reduce the risk of radical regulatory change at British Gas or National Power.

As the election approaches, however, uncertainty is affecting business activity. Leading housebuilders have been hoping for an election since last summer, convinced that confidence will not return to the market until it is out of the way. That may have some real basis, for instance in the tax calculations of more affluent home-buyers wondering what they will be able to afford and made cautious by the tide of repossessions and forced sales. Psychology is probably more important. At least potential homebuyers have the counter-attraction of the temporary waiving of stamp duty. Companies contemplating capital investment have an additional incentive to hold back in Labour's plans for more generous capital allowances, not knowing what the *quid pro quo* might be in the basic corporation tax rate.

In the City, there are more clear-cut worries. Neither companies nor banks and big investors want to become embroiled in transactions that might span an election. The early Budget presents few worries, but the most favoured election date is now April 9 — only 66 days away. That virtually rules out new takeover bids depending on large-scale underwriting of shares, since a takeover bid is now usually reckoned to last the full 60 days allowed by the takeover panel after a formal offer document is sent. Fund managers may be happy to hold shares, but there is no point in multiplying that risk over an election period for the modest returns expected from underwriting. The window of opportunity for rights issues is also closing fast. Last autumn's appetite for new share issues choked on British Aerospace and a series of cases where fund managers felt companies were joining the bandwagon for no good reason. From now on, rights issues are likely to require the sort of heavy discount that only those in real need are likely to contemplate.

Paradoxically, this election blight on corporate activity could help sustain the shares of companies immune from political change — at least until the next "shock" opinion poll.

**COMMENT**  
Anatole Kaletsky  
believes that  
the Nineties  
may yet turn  
out to be the  
American decade

Ten years ago, I arrived in America as Washington correspondent of the *Financial Times*. America was at the lowest point of its worst recession for 50 years. The country was still smarting from its humiliation by Ayatollah Khomeini when Poland was crushed by martial law. Communism was in the ascendant round the world and had arrived on America's doorstep in Nicaragua.

Five presidents in a row had failed to serve the usual two terms in office and the new Hollywood president seemed destined to follow his forerunners into history's footnotes. Having narrowly survived an assassination attempt, President Reagan found his popularity plumping with the economy to new lows.

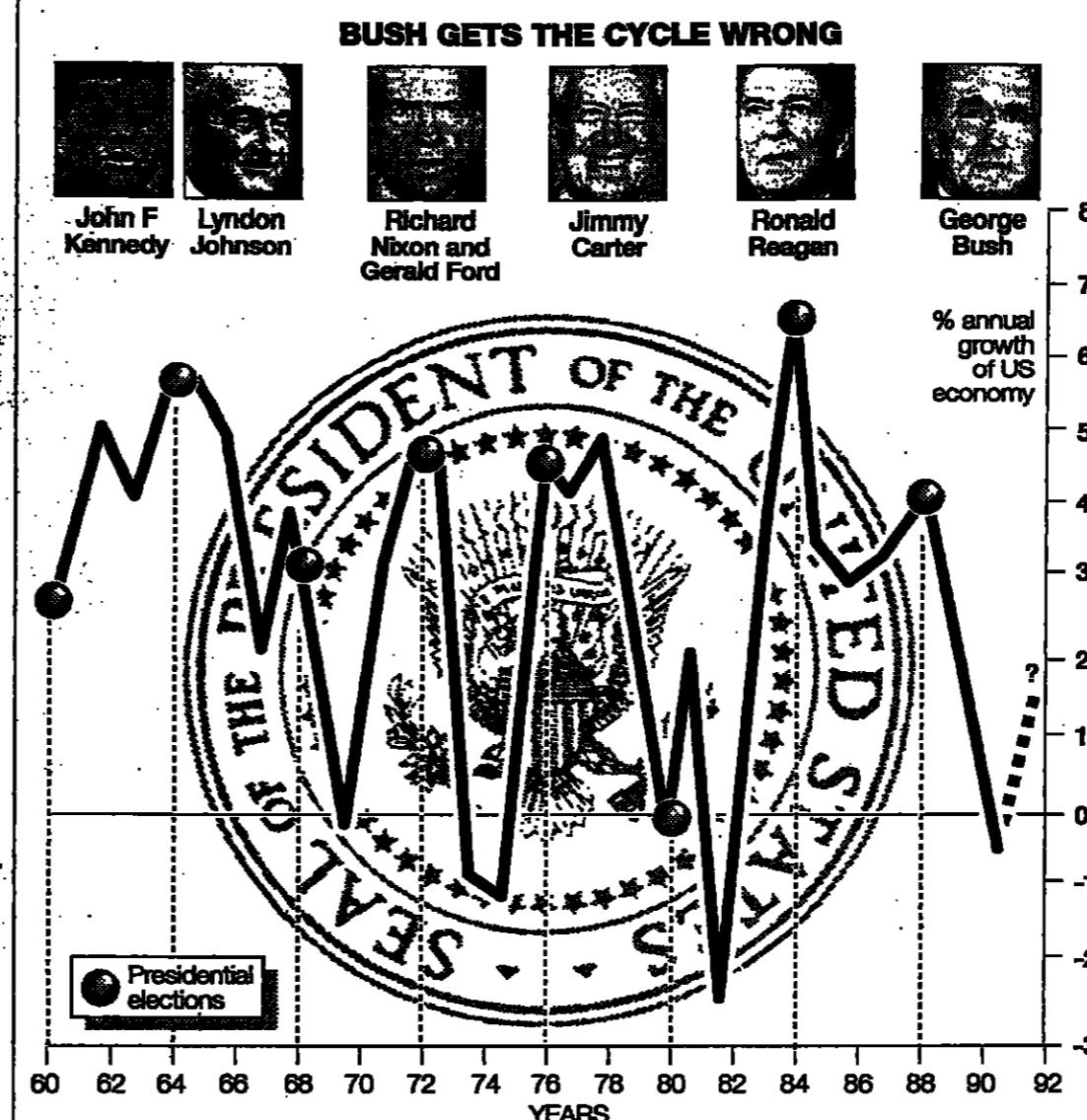
Against this appalling background, Mr Reagan delivered his State of the Union message after a year in office. He boasted that America had learned once again to "stand tall" in the world. His economic advisers promised that the economy would come "roaring back". Mr Reagan was ridiculed by the international intelligentsia for his schmaltz slogans, but he enjoyed the last laugh. For Mr Reagan had the measure of America's mood.

In 1982, America was not the disengaged, self-questioning nation that I had expected. It was brimming over with pride. Americans had no time for anyone who told them of their loss of global dominance, of Japan's managerial and technical superiority or the higher living standards and more secure societies enjoyed by many Europeans.

Ten years later, America has won the cold war. It has enjoyed a period of uninterrupted growth never before matched in peacetime. The American recession, unlike the one in Britain, has been among the shallowest and shortest on record. Yet when President Bush presented his sober State of the Union message last week, he described a country in a state of neurosis and near-despair.

Americans reacted to Mr Bush's plans to revive the economy with the penance of spoilt children. They grabbed the lollipops — like the \$500 cash handout for first-time homebuyers — then, without drawing breath, resumed their cries of "more more more".

Why does America demand ever more extravagant gestures from Mr Bush to show that "he cares" about a recession that may be over already? Because, like a spoilt child, it feels insecure. The cold war may have been won and the GDP may have stopped falling, but for the first time since the Great Depression, Americans feel like losers. What, then, has



broken America's spirit? Some explanations seemed far-fetched.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos this weekend, for example, Wayne Angell, the Federal Reserve governor, was still blaming the inflationary policies of the Seventies. Richard Breden, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, attributed the economic malaise partly to a high capital gains tax, which encouraged companies to replace equity with debt.

Jean-Claude Paye, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's secretary general, spread his net even wider.

To explain the lack of confidence that has spread from America around the globe, he came up with four possible reasons: the breakup of the Soviet Union; the growth of protectionist pressures; the spread of Islamic fundamentalism; and (believe it or not) global warming. An incredulous American journalist translated Mr Paye's last thesis for his hometown readers: "It's too hot to stop."

Yet, to anyone who lived in America through most of the Eighties, the explanation seems clear enough. American workers' real wages have fallen almost continuously since the mid-Seventies and are now no

higher than they were in 1969. This record of stagnation is unmatched in any country outside Africa, Latin America and the former communist bloc. The real mystery is not why Americans have now woken up to their economy's underperformance, but why they were so over-confident in the past ten years.

America's self-esteem has always been based on material advancement. The country has not been bound together by a common history, an ethnic identity or a language, but by an ideological vision. America is the City on the Hill, the symbol of the entire world's hopes of prosperity and freedom, the ultimate destination of all human progress.

The contradiction between this glowing vision, which remains at the heart of all American education, politics and popular culture, and the economic underachievement of the past 20 years naturally led to the psychological denial of the Reagan era. Americans were not prepared to face the truth about their stagnating economy and Mr Reagan gave them some excellent excuses.

He cut Americans' taxes, so they imagined they were doing material

ly better. He encouraged an overvalued dollar, which made foreign goods cheaper for consumers. He deregulated the financial system, allowing families and companies to raise their living standards (or dividends) by borrowing even if they could not earn enough to pay the bills. But all these were obviously temporary distractions.

The theory behind Reaganomics held that extra borrowing — by the government, consumers, companies and the nation as a whole through the balance of payments — was only an interim measure. It would tide the country over until the benefits of lower taxes and other "supply side" measures came through.

In retrospect, supply side economics, at least as it was applied in America, and to a lesser extent in Britain, turned out to be a boondoggle. Record budget deficits stimulated demand and pulled America out of deep recession. The economy did come "roaring back" from 1983, just as Mr Reagan had promised. But as a way of raising productivity and improving the allocation of resources lower taxes, financial deregulation, cuts in public services and the other nostrums of supply side economics were a failure. To

take one example, untrammelled financial deregulation did not redirect investment to more productive uses as the supply siders predicted. Instead, it financed unneeded office blocks, raised earnings and employment to unsustainable heights among financiers, realtors, architects and corporate lawyers, bankrupted hundreds of businesses caught up in the mania for leveraged buyouts and mergers, and forced thousands of others to sacrifice their long-term investment plans on the altar of "maximising shareholder values".

None of this proves that financial deregulation and the rest of the supply side policies were necessarily damaging, only that they went too far, or were mismanaged or introduced too fast. But the experience does suggest that the conventional assessment of American economic policy in the Eighties should be exactly inverted. In managing short-term macroeconomic fluctuations, the Keynesian demand side of Reaganomics was (and still is) broadly successful, but in improving the economy's long-term productive potential, many of the supply side reforms were ineffective at best.

For the international economic policy establishment, these findings are hard to accept. Organisations like the OECD have spent the past decade preaching to Europe about the need to emulate the labour markets, social and financial policies of America's supply side. At the same time, they have warned America to follow "prudent, stability oriented" macroeconomic policies like those of the Germans and other Europeans.

In the present recession, the scales have fallen from American eyes. They have realised that Reaganomics failed to restore the growth of their living standards and productivity and they need a new economic philosophy, but their leaders have no idea where to turn. This is why the psychological devastation has been out of all proportion to the depth of the economic downturn. It is also why America's future may now be more hopeful than at any time in the past 20 years. At last Americans are debating some of the economic and social handicaps that separate them from the rest of the world: the inefficiency of a health system financed by private insurance; the impact of education on productivity growth; the prodigious costs of litigation; the choice between a welfare state provided by the government and one offered by crime.

Nobody yet knows how to deal with these and many other problems, but throughout its existence America has proved uniquely capable of rising to every challenge, largely because of its openness to new ideas and people from round the world. As America finally confronts its economic and social failures, the despair will turn into energy and enthusiasm. When it does, Europe and even Japan had better watch out. The Nineties may yet turn out to be the American decade.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY



### Back to a future

SIMON Thorp, former head of gilts trading at Salomon Brothers, has timed his return to the market admirably well. Two weeks after he quit his old post, it has emerged he is to take up an equivalent position at NatWest Gilt, part of NatWest treasury and capital markets which has grown steadily in the last couple of years. But to the envy of his past and future colleagues, he leaves tomorrow with his wife on a month-long trip to Australia, thus guaranteeing a tan when he returns to the City early in March. "The gilts division has begun to be turned around and is set to become far stronger," says Thorp, aged 33, who began his career as a blue button with Akrayd & Smithers, now part of SG Warburg Securities, and switched to Salomons in 1988. He will be working under Keith Wiley, overall head of the gilts section. Salomons, meanwhile, have appointed two of Thorp's former team-mates, Andrew Duthie and Robie Unicack, to pick up where he left off.

### Winter's discontent

MARTIN Winter, a senior venture capital manager at Biddle & Co, the law firm, and the prospective Conservative candidate for the marginal south London seat of Tooting, has clashed with the board of Bass, the brewing giant. He is alarmed by talk that Charrington, a Bass subsidiary, is thinking of reopening the Balham Hotel in his would-be constituency. It has been closed since police raided the premises last November.

**Everyone's a winner**  
PAUL Winner, PR consultant and marketing adviser, is set to do for the world of art what his cousin, Michael, has done for Britain's film industry. Winner, who is marketing adviser to the Confederation of British Industry, is known for his habit of sketching wherever he goes. Now, some of his work has found its

way into Harrods, where an exhibition of sketches and paintings of London theatres opens today. Guests at the launch will include Neville Shulman, a showbiz account and old friend, who made headlines over Christmas when he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Everest back to back in aid of Music for the World, a charity founded by Winner, whose artistic talents go back to his days as a law student at Oxford where contemporaries included a highly ambitious Michael Heseltine. "It was while he was president of the Students' Union that he told me he intended to be prime minister," says Winner, aged 57, who set up the first student exchanges between Oxford and Moscow.

### What a corker

EL VINO, the legendary Fleet Street watering hole, is knocking out premier cru Montrachet red burgundy at an unbelievable £1,95 a bottle against the usual £8.75. One problem — the wine has gone off. "We discovered it was going over the top, so thought we'd better try and sell it," said a spokesman, who added it is great for cooking or making mulled wine. "We suggest you drink it quickly."

### Pole positions

POLISH cabbies have been quick to grasp the potential of free trade. Dozens have written to East Midlands Electricity, offering to plaster ads all over their taxis. EME, somewhat bemused by the approaches, is writing back to the budding entrepreneurs, politely declining the offer as it is unable to direct current so far east.

JON ASHWORTH

## Lloyd's committed to growth in insurance

From Mr Nicholas Doak

that Lloyd's share of British non-life premiums in 1990 was about 14 per cent. There were also substantial insurance industries in Japan, the USA and Europe, so our 1990 world share must have been less.

Whatever our share in 1990, the largest growth in world non-life premiums since then has been for motor vehicle and other personal lines insurance which barely existed at the turn of the century.

These classes are overwhelmingly written by a country's indigenous insurers, not by international providers such as Lloyd's. Any apparent loss of market share

has been influenced more by this change in market share than by lack of effort by Lloyd's.

Irrespective of past or present market share, in accepting the report of the task force, the chairman of Lloyd's committed the society to a course for growth in premiums and profits. As the report reassess, insurance enjoys a higher growth rate than developed countries' GDP and the society has every intention of sharing this.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS DOAK  
(Manager, Media Relations,  
Public Affairs Department),  
Lloyd's of London,  
1 Lime Street, EC3.

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From Mr H.D.R. Dobie

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I remain, Sir.  
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H. D. R. DOBIE  
(Managing Director),  
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## FIRST FUTURES

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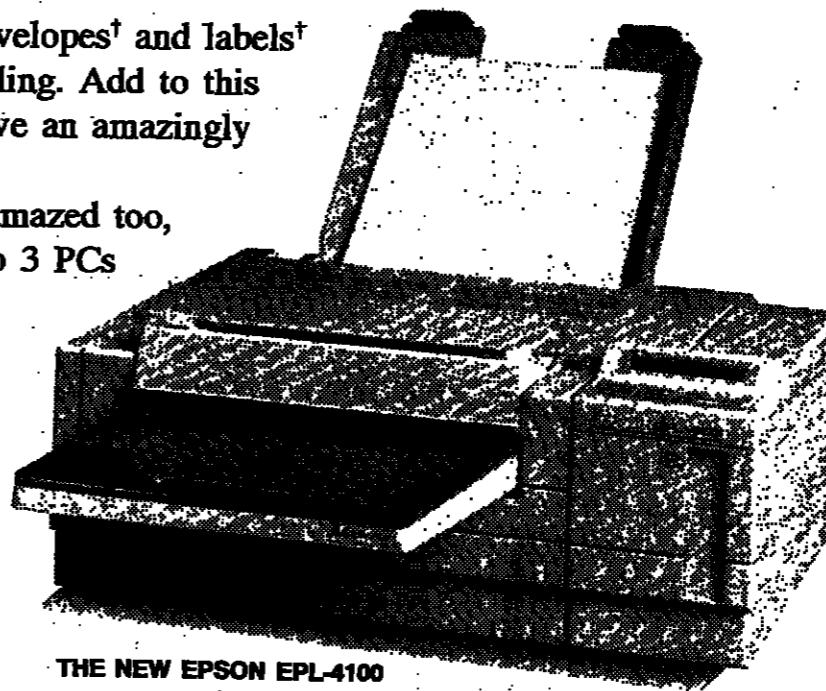
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## Portfolio

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3	Heg	Transport	
4	First Min Fin	Bank/Div	
5	ACT Group	Electrical	
6	Thomson	Foods	
7	World Stores	Chem. Pers	
8	Rein Ind	Building Ind	
9	Sherriff Corp	Electrical	
10	Nat West	Bank/Div	
11	Stevensons	Transport	
12	Bluedot Toys	Industrial	
13	Baird (Wm)	Industrial	
14	Hughes Tex	Industrial	
15	Croda	Chem. Pers	
16	Portak	Industrial	
17	Boat (Henry)	Building Ind	
18	Wor	Industrial	
19	Euro	Chem. Pers	
20	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
21	Charter Cos	Industrial	
22	Abey Ntl	Bank/Div	
23	Wegener	Bank/Div	
24	Haweslock Rds	Building Ind	
25	Devonish (DA)	Brasseries	
26	CRH	Building Ind	
27	Nat Ass't Bk	Bank/Div	
28	Grundas	Industrial	
29	Blue Circle	Building Ind	
30	Glynned	Industrial	
31	Crichton Nt	Industrial	
32	Electrocomps	Electrical	
33	Amex	Building Ind	
34	Powell Duffryn	Transport	
35	Iceland Frozen	Foods	
36	Scot & New	Breweries	
37	Alba	Electrical	
38	Macra 4	Electrical	
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Price Why No Yd % PFE

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TABLE

Champion fails to dispel doubts about his commitment to finishing the job

# Eubank goes through motions

By SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Eubank made all the right noises after successfully defending his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title against Thulane "Sugar Boy" Malinga, of South Africa, on Saturday at Birmingham, but it was what he did not say that came through loud and clear.

Only those who take his words at face value will be convinced that he has lifted from his mind the burden of the head injuries suffered by Michael Watson in their bout four months ago. "Before the fight, what happened had preyed on my mind. There was a doubt. Am I going to hold back?" Eubank said.

He claimed that, after flooring Malinga in the fifth round with an overhand right, "I proved to myself that doubt is not there".

"My objective is not to cause mayhem," he said. "But nothing was going to stop me finishing the fight at that time. If the bell had not rung, I would have finished the fight."

The bout does not support his contention. While it might have looked as if he was going after Malinga in the fifth round, it was far from a determined effort. Malinga looked utterly vulnerable. But Eubank's follow-up was as half-hearted as his boxing was half-paced.

Whether consciously or unconsciously — I believe it was the former — he could not make himself unleash the "killer punch". Eubank is too intelligent a man to forget the devastating effect his blows can have.

I believe Eubank could have finished the contest in that round or the next, for he is the most accurate of punchers. Yet, he kept missing round after round. He seldom makes mistakes, yet he was caught over and over again.

Three times he fell over because of wild punches that completely missed. Where was the fearsome uppercut? Why so many body punches? Why such sloppy defence?

His trainer, Ronnie Davies,



Unconvincing display: The blows of Eubank, right, kept missing, round after round against Malinga

said: "He wasn't sharp. I don't know why. He was sharp in the gym. He looked brilliant in the gym. He should have stopped him. Mental? I've got to be careful what I say."

At first, it could be said he was only interested in "nicking" the rounds by lifting the pace as necessary and getting through the bout without causing Malinga any injury. Though Eubank was always in control, this was a difficult strategy for a counter-punching type like him to follow against a stand-up boxer like Malinga.

Instead, Eubank is to defend against John Jarvis, of the United States, on April 5 at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester. Jarvis won a

rounds, though one of the judges and many ringers gave it to the South African by three rounds.

What heart Eubank had in boxing is not there any more. He is hanging on to stabilise financially after making heavy investments in property. If he was still interested in boxing, he would be talking about taking on leading opponents.

Instead, Eubank is to defend against John Jarvis, of the United States, on April 5 at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester. Jarvis won a

controversial decision over Malinga and was knocked out by Darrin Van Horn. Those close to Eubank say he is simply going through the motions.

RESULTS: Super-middleweight championship (12 rounds): Chris Eubank (GB) holds off Thulane Malinga (SA) on Commonwealth light-middleweight championship (12 rounds): Chris Eubank (GB) holds off Thulane Malinga (SA) on Commonwealth light-middleweight championship (12 rounds): George Scott (US) vs John Smith (Liverpool), rec 3rd rd. Light-welter (4 rounds): Michael Dornan (Portsmouth) vs Steve Williams (Brentwood), rec 3rd rd. Welter (8 rounds): Michael Dornan (Portsmouth) vs Steve Williams (Brentwood), rec 3rd rd. Middle (8 rounds): Paul Busby (Worster) vs John Keighley (Southwark), rec 3rd rd. Heavy (8 rounds): George Tchortchian (SA) vs Gal Lewis (Covington), rec 4th rd.

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## Lewis learns a lesson in uninspiring style

Las Vegas: Despite his impressive victory over Lennox Lewis on Saturday, Lennox Lewis insisted that he remains on course to bring the world heavyweight championship to Britain. After beating Bills on a unanimous points decision after a one-sided ten-round contest, Lewis also rejected claims that his performance might have delayed his prospects of challenging for the title during 1992.

"I've jumped a hurdle," Lewis said yesterday. "This is the first time I've been ten

rounds in my career and it's another part of the learning process. It turned into a technical war, really. I realise you can't knock everybody out, but it showed a lot of people I'm here and I'm a contender."

Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, was also happy to look on the positive side of his protege's display. "Lennox was trying too hard to impress the Americans and should have gone behind the jab more often," Maloney said. "At the end of the day, Lennox needed a fight like that. It's no good getting to

the world title and then finding out how hard it can be when it's too late."

Lewis, who is No. 3 by the World Boxing Association and No. 4 by the World Boxing Council, won by ten points, eight points and six points on the judges' scorecards.

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## FOR THE RECORD

### BASKETBALL

### HOCKEY

### RUGBY LEAGUE

### TENNIS

### SKIING

### SQUASH RACKETS

### GOLF

### CANOEING

### BOWLS

### KEY BISCAYNE: Seniors' Royal Caribbean Classic

### CROSSING

### CRICKET

### ICE HOCKEY

### CRESTA RUN

### GRINDENWALD, Switzerland: Women's

### MONTEREY, California: AT and T Pebble Beach national pro-am tournament

### PARIS: International tournament

Captain overcomes crisis of confidence to push New Zealand to brink of Test match defeat

## Gooch leads England from front

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN AUCKLAND

IT WAS early in 1979, 13 years ago, when England last won four successive Test matches and, coincidentally, when New Zealand last lost a home series. Graham Gooch and his side were last night on the brink of updating a lot of history.

The Auckland Test, played on an accident black spot of a pitch, limped into its fifth day barely alive. New Zealand still required 180 runs; more realistically, England needed the two remaining wickets for an impregnable 2-0 lead, with only Thursday's final Test in Wellington to come.

Ted Dexter, who arrives here later this week in his role as chairman of the England committee, was the last England captain to be in such a happy position in New Zealand. His 1963 touring side won all three Tests; since then, England had managed only three wins from 16 Tests here, until Gooch set about restating his facility for getting the best out of the most unpromising scenarios.

Winning, it will often repeat, is a habit, and the cliché does not alter the truth of it. Not since Mike Brearley have England had such a prolific winner in charge and, when Brearley led the side to victory in the last three Tests of the 1978-9 Australian tour and the first of the following summer against India, Gooch was ever-present, a young man learning at the maestro's shoulder.

Gooch has consistently deserved the notion that this Test series could in any sense be belittled as merely a warm-up for the World Cup. Now, he has proved his point, masterminding England's command of two very different matches.

The win in Christchurch was based on stamina, on gradually breaking down the solid barn door of an unresponsive pitch and then piling spectacularly through. Here at Eden Park, the bowlers have been befuddled by conditions from first ball to last, and England had to emphasise their superiority by recovering from a dreadful start.

Typically, it was Gooch himself who put New Zealand out of the game with a century that may not have

been one of his most memorable, but was certainly among his most resolute. Nobody in the game had scored a fifty when he went in to open England's second innings on Saturday and, for more than an hour, nothing seemed likely to change.

Stewart and Hick went cheaply, while Gooch, from his first time on to, was playing like a man short of confidence rather than just short of runs. Morrison beat him time and again outside the off stump, his feet were not working properly, and his bat was not coming down straight. Geoff Boycott, to whom Gooch turns so often for technical advice, described him as "nervy and anxious".

His first 50 took three hours. He had faced 133 balls, exactly 100 more than Allan Lamb required for his thrilling half-century, high on risk but calculating in its counter-attacking. By the time Lamb left, Gooch was himself again, dismissing the bad balls with certainty. The two hours between lunch and tea produced 138 runs, and crushed New Zealand's spirits.

Gooch, having gone from 50 to 100 in little more than an hour, was run out by an over-eager Reeve before the close, and yesterday morning England lost their last four wickets for two runs in consecutive overs.

Enough happened during this flurry of activity to reassure Gooch that the pitch had not suddenly developed a conscience. The thrust of its malice had altered, however, for, while the ball was no longer deviating sideways so extraver-

gantly, it had now developed a crazy variation in bounce which was a danger to body and stumps.

The notional target of 383, in a minimum 167 overs, looked even more remote for New Zealand when, even before lunch, the scoreboard read seven for three.

Hardland and Wright had both gone for nought, so five wickets had now fallen without a run being scored. This has previously occurred only once in a Test match: small consolation to Hardland, who was completing a pair, or Wright, who left with a tortured expression after being leg-before to one which hit him no higher than the shin.

Jones went in a similar way, though this time the ball did not rise above his ankle, and when DeFreitas, who had taken two of the wickets, began after lunch with an over which included two shouters and one which flew viciously from a length, the odds were not long against New Zealand surrendering before tea.

They were helped by just about the one thing Gooch seems unable to do at present, which is to hold a catch. He put down Rutherford of DeFreitas at third slip, his second miss of the match and his seventh of the tour. The fourth-wicket stand survived a further ten overs, and had added 70 before Rutherford was finally out to Pringle.

Five were down at tea. Tufnell snaring Patel with a slower ball, and Crowe's brave 56, made at some cost to his body, ended with the second ball afterwards. It was another which took off unpleasantly, flicking the shoulder of the bat on its way to slip.

But after bowling much better than in the first innings, DeFreitas lapsed into bad old ways before the close. Cairns and Parore had gone down fighting, but England had ten overs at the ninth-wicket pair of Su'a and Morrison. DeFreitas and Lewis wasted a number of them with some senseless short-pitched bowling and Gooch, again declining to use Reeve, employed spin at both ends as Su'a, unexpectedly stylish, deprived England of a day off.



Lamb: calculated risk



Pulling power: Gooch hits Cairns to the boundary on the way to his century

## SCOREBOARD FROM EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND

ENGLAND: First Innings 203 (D R Pringle 41; C L Cairns 6 for 52).									
Second Innings									
B R Hartland lbw b Lewis	0	—	—	14	14	B R Hartland c Russell b DeFreitas	0	—	—
Thrown out by bowler	114	2	15	29	220	Edged leg-cutter	1	2	
A J Stewart c Parore b Su'a	8	—	1	50	31	J G Wright lbw b Lewis	0	—	9
Glancing down leg side	4	—	1	9	5	Played back to shorter	5	5	
G A Hick lbw b Morrison	35	—	7	64	45	A J Stewart c Parore b Lewis	5	—	1
Played on, cutting	60	1	10	72	47	Edged by break-back	25	18	
A J Lamb c Watson b Patel	25	—	1	130	112	Edged to first slip	1	110	
Driven to long-on	23	—	3	106	69	K R Rutherford c Stewart b Pringle	32	—	5
D R Pringle lbw b Watson	24	—	4	63	49	D N Patel c and b Tufnell	17	—	30
Trapped half-forward	2	—	—	10	7	C L Cairns c Russell b Tufnell	24	—	45
C C Lewis run out (Patel/Parore)	0	—	—	12	5	Trapped ball that turned and bounced	15	—	60
Marked over second run	0	—	—	13	11	T A C Lewis c Tufnell b Tufnell	0	—	68
Trapped on c Hardland b Cairns	24	—	4	63	49	Trapped on back foot	23	—	58
Fielded on leg	0	—	—	10	7	M L Sa'ad not out	36	1	6
D R Pringle lbw b Cairns	0	—	—	12	5	D K Morrison not out	6	—	37
Played across line	0	—	—	13	11	Extras (b 1, nb 11)	12	—	
P D DeFreitas c Wright b Morrison	0	—	—	13	11	Total (259mms, 83 overs)	203	—	
Driven to long-on	0	—	—	8	5				
Extras (b 8, lb 16, nb 2)	25	—	—	321					
Total (413mms, 98-4 overs)	251	—	—	321					

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29 (Stewart); 2-33 (Nick); 3-33 (Smith); 4-182 (Lamb); 5-233 (Gooch); 6-289 (Reeve); 7-319 (Russell); 8-321 (Lewis); 9-321 (Watson); 10-321 (DeFreitas).

BOWLING: Morrison 21.4-6-62-2 (1 nb); 20.4-0.4-2-17-1; 4-20-0.6-4-0-18-1; Cairns 19.5-6-62-2 (4 nb); 20.17-0.6-39-1, 0-1-0.6-24-2; Watson 26-0.4-1-13-1; Parore 22.4-6-34-1, 12-1-2-1; Su'a 10.3-4-32-2 (5-2-6-2); 20-7-31-20-0; Patel 22.7-43-1 (one spe); Tufnell 42-16-1 (one spe).

## NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

	6s	4s	Min	Balls
B R Hartland lbw b Lewis	0	—	—	14
Thrown out by bowler	15	—	—	93
A J Stewart c Parore b Su'a	14	—	2	72
Glancing down leg side	45	—	6	135
G A Hick lbw b Morrison	26	—	4	84
Played on, cutting	24	—	5	60
A J Lamb c Watson b Patel	1	—	6	9
Driven to long-on	0	—	2	8
D R Pringle lbw b Cairns	0	—	1	1
Trapped half-forward	2	—	1	1
C C Lewis run out (Patel/Parore)	15	—	16	18
Marked over second run	0	—	16	18
Trapped on c Hardland b Cairns	24	—	16	11
Fielded on leg	0	—	16	11
D R Pringle lbw b Cairns	0	—	16	11
Played across line	0	—	16	11
P D DeFreitas c Wright b Morrison	0	—	16	11
Driven to long-on	0	—	16	11
Extras (b 8, nb 11)	12	—	16	11
Total (259mms, 83 overs)	142	—	203	11

Wright (5) retired hurt at 13-1 (10 overs) and returned at 91-3 (41 overs).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2 (Hardland); 2-35 (Jones); 3-81 (Rutherford); 4-102 (Crowe); 5-123 (Wright); 6-124 (Cairns); 7-139 (Parore); 8-139 (Patel); 9-139 (Morrison); 10-142 (Watson).

BOWLING: DeFreitas 22.5-53-2 (2 nb); 20.2-0.4-2-17-1; 4-20-0.6-4-0-18-1; Cairns 19.5-6-62-2 (4 nb); 20.17-0.6-39-1, 0-1-0.6-24-2; Watson 26-0.4-1-13-1; Parore 22.4-6-34-1, 12-1-2-1; Su'a 10.3-4-32-2 (5-2-6-2); 20-7-31-20-0; Patel 22.7-43-1 (one spe); Tufnell 42-16-1 (one spe).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Hardland); 2-0 (Wright); 3-7 (Jones); 4-77 (Rutherford); 5-108 (Patel); 6-118 (Crowe); 7-153 (Cairns); 8-153 (Parore).

BOWLING: DeFreitas 22.5-53-2 (2 nb); 20.2-0.4-2-17-1; 4-20-0.6-4-0-18-1; Cairns 19.5-6-62-2 (4 nb); 20.17-0.6-39-1, 0-1-0.6-24-2; Watson 26-0.4-1-13-1; Parore 22.4-6-34-1, 12-1-2-1; Su'a 10.3-4-32-2 (5-2-6-2); 20-7-31-20-0; Patel 22.7-43-1 (one spe); Tufnell 42-16-1 (one spe).

Umpires: B L Aldridge and R S Dunne.

## SECOND INNINGS

	6s	4s	Min	Balls
B R Hartland c Russell b DeFreitas	0	—	—	1
Edged leg-cutter	0	—	—	2
J G Wright lbw b Lewis	0	—	—	9
Played back to shorter	5	—	—	18
A J Stewart c Parore b Lewis	5	—	—	110
Edged by break-back	17	—	3	30
K R Rutherford c Stewart b Pringle	32	—	5	68
Edged to first slip	32	—	5	110
D N Patel c and b Tufnell	17	—	4	65
Beaten in the night	24	—	4	65
C L Cairns c Russell b Tufnell	15	—	5	60
Trapped on back foot	15	—	6	60
M L Sa'ad not out	36	1	6	68
D K Morrison not out	6	—	1	37
Extras (b 1, nb 11)	12	—	—	
Total (8 wkt, 282min, 70 overs)	203	—	—	

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Hardland); 2-0 (Wright); 3-7 (Jones); 4-77 (Rutherford); 5-1



Cantona steps in to replace Chapman

# Wilkinson springs a surprise with Leeds back on top

Leeds United ..... 3  
Notts County ..... 0

By PETER BALL

**T**HERE is more to Howard Wilkinson than meets the eye. If managers are going to make the decisive contribution in determining the outcome of the League title race, his capacity for surprise, and dynamic action, should not be underrated.

On Saturday, after his team had gone back to the top of the table with its first home win since November, the Leeds manager produced his new signing, the controversial French forward, Eric Cantona, with all the casual aplomb of Frankie Howard seeing a trick work. He then capped it by acting as interpreter as Cantona revealed that he had always admired English football and always wanted to play for Leeds since

seeing them play in the 1975 European Cup final — or something like that.

"He's turned on by the prospect of playing in England in what he calls 'real football' compared with France," Wilkinson added, which at least provided a useful corrective to hearing Hoddle and Waddle raving about French technique and tactical sophistication.

But it represented a remarkable switch for the *extinct terrible* of the French League, who, supposedly, was returning to France in high dudgeon after being asked to extend his trial with Sheffield Wednesday for another week.

Wilkinson had no such qualms about stepping in where Francis feared to tread, taking Cantona sight unseen, and with nary a thought to the player's reputation.

"I've seen enough of Eric on video," Wilkinson said. "I spoke to four people — Glenn

Hoddle, a lad I know who's a coach in France, Michel Platini and his assistant, and they all said there's no problem with the boy."

For the moment, Leeds have him on loan, at a fee of around £100,000, with the option to sign him for below £1 million. Whether the love affair will last may be questionable, but even in the short term it is good business for Wilkinson, who, at the worst, has found a replacement for Lee Chapman for six weeks at minimal cost.

"He's a big lad, good in the air," Wilkinson said, which sounds like Chapman, although the next bit did not. "He's got a terrific touch, very, very good vision. For a big lad, his ability to bring other people into the game is surprising, and he's got a lot of flair."

All of that might have been calculated to make Chapman feel considerably worse than he was on Thursday when Cantona was walking out on Wednesday. There was some consolation, however. "The only grey area is how he deals with English football," Wilkinson said. A string of names suggests that is a large enough doubt to keep Chapman smiling through the next six weeks.

Saturday's scoreline suggests that Leeds could afford to wait for Chapman's return. The result took United up to 17th in the first division. There were also important wins for West Ham United, who beat Oldham Athletic 1-0 with a rare goal from Mitchell Thomas, and Coventry City added to troubled times at Crystal Palace with their 1-0 win at Selhurst Park.

Wimbledon celebrated the appointment of their new manager, Joe Kinnear, by earning a point at Queen's Park Rangers, and then made the Crawley Town manager, Brian Sparrow, re-serve team coach.

Baity was the unlikely beneficiary, leading the charge as Leeds cleared a corner, brushing aside Thomas's intervention on the halfway line and racing through to leave Cherry helpless with his second goal of the season and third in 192 games. Wallace claimed the third and it was all over. All that, and Cantona to come.

Leeds United ..... 3  
Notts County ..... 0

POSTPONED: Bury v Chester v Stockport

Wimbledon old boys shed their inhibitions at Anfield

# Crazy spirit lives on as Liverpool find to their cost

Liverpool ..... 1  
 Chelsea ..... 2  
 BY CLIVE WHITE

TO THEIR horror, Liverpool discovered on Saturday that the Crazy Gang spirit lives on. Just when the class of '92 had managed to hold their heads high again with pride, two of those kids from the Bash Street Gang turned up to lay down the banana skins once more and the former champions took another heavy tumble.

The contempt which Wimbledon always used to show for Liverpool, culminating in an historic victory for what some people saw as Evi over Good one unforgettable day in May four years ago, surfaced again as Vinnie Jones and Dennis Wise, two of their old boys, delivered to Chelsea, their new masters, their second victory over Merseysiders in a week.

This era, however, was much more famous if less significant than last Sunday's FA Cup defeat of Everton. Chelsea had not won a league game at Anfield in 55 years, but records and reputations count for nothing with characters like Jones and Wise. On the contrary, they are like a red rag to them. It is hardly surprising, then, that they treat the "this is Anfield" sign

hanging over the head of the players tunnel at Liverpool with such disdain.

The story goes that Wimbledon players once defaced it with spit on their way to the pitch but Jones, for one, appears to have modified his manners since those days. Instead, on Saturday, he attempted to hang his own sign, which read "We're bastered", beneath the intimidating Liverpool plaque but was prevented from doing so by the police.

One would hesitate to go as far as to say that he allowed his football to do the talking instead, but he certainly made a fairly poignant statement after 21 minutes with an impressive, dipping 20 yard drive — "I don't suppose Ian St John will give me any credit for it" — over the head of Grobelaar in the Liverpool goal. It was the Merseysiders who looked bothered then and though the erratic Rosenthal pulled them level ten minutes later with an emphatic finish, they never displayed the fluency and resolve which had overcome Arsenal in midweek.

In one of the shortest press conferences on record to be exact, Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, accused his players of committing the cardinal sin of any performer of reading his reviews and believing

them. "Very disappointing — the most disappointing performance at home since I've been at the club," he said. "Players were guilty of believing what was said about them since Wednesday night. All in all, a totally inept performance. I apologise to the supporters for that performance." And with that, he turned on his heel and left.

Thirteen League games without defeat, had understandably encouraged talk that Liverpool might yet win the championship. Had they defeated Chelsea they would have been a mere six points behind the leaders, but this game revealed only how much they still miss Barnes and Rush while the temporary absence of Thomas in midfield and Nicol in defence meant that they were flawed in all departments.

Blatant missed by Rosenthal and McManaman prompted Le Saux, Chelsea's bubbly young midfield player, not without some justification, to suggest that Liverpool are not as lethal in front of goal as they used to be. "I don't think anyone is intimidated by them any more," he said. "Their reputation has almost disappeared."

Those Chelsea players old enough to know better not to write off Liverpool were content merely to express their gratitude for the opportunity afforded them. That included an uncharacteristic slackness in defence which Wise punished for the winner in the 74th minute. It could have been worse for Liverpool, but for Grobelaar, at his extrovert worst/best, saving Wise's 83rd minute penalty following a trip by Marsh on Allen.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobelaar, R Jones, D Venables, R Rosenthal, M Wright (sub: K Stevens), J McInally, D Sturridge, J Thompson, M McManaman (sub: M Moran), S McManaman (sub: K Hitchcock), G Holt, T Boyd, V Jones, K Keown, J Terry, G. Smith, A Tonkinson, G Stewart, C Allen, D Wilson. Referee: G Pack.

Wimbledon old boys shed their inhibitions at Anfield

## Steven may return

RANGERS consolidated both their leadership of the premier division and their status as favourites to retain the Scottish championship when they beat Heart of Midlothian 1-0 at Tynecastle on Saturday courtesy of a goal from Ally McCoist (Roddy Forsyth writes). Rangers re-

vealed that Trevor Steven may return to Ibrox from Marseilles at the end of the season. The French champions have yet to pay half of the £5 million transfer fee they agreed six months ago and contractually they are obliged to let Rangers have first option on his services.

In one of the shortest press conferences on record to be exact, Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, accused his players of committing the cardinal sin of any performer of reading his reviews and believing

them. "Very disappointing — the most disappointing performance at home since I've been at the club," he said. "Players were guilty of believing what was said about them since Wednesday night. All in all, a totally inept performance. I apologise to the supporters for that performance." And with that, he turned on his heel and left.

Thirteen League games without defeat, had understandably encouraged talk that Liverpool might yet win the championship. Had they defeated Chelsea they would have been a mere six points behind the leaders, but this game revealed only how much they still miss Barnes and Rush while the temporary absence of Thomas in midfield and Nicol in defence meant that they were flawed in all departments.

Blatant missed by Rosenthal and McManaman prompted Le Saux, Chelsea's bubbly young midfield player, not without some justification, to suggest that Liverpool are not as lethal in front of goal as they used to be. "I don't think anyone is intimidated by them any more," he said. "Their reputation has almost disappeared."

Those Chelsea players old enough to know better not to write off Liverpool were content merely to express their gratitude for the opportunity afforded them. That included an uncharacteristic slackness in defence which Wise punished for the winner in the 74th minute. It could have been worse for Liverpool, but for Grobelaar, at his extrovert worst/best, saving Wise's 83rd minute penalty following a trip by Marsh on Allen.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobelaar, R Jones, D Venables, R Rosenthal, M Wright (sub: K Stevens), J McInally, D Sturridge, J Thompson, M McManaman (sub: M Moran), S McManaman (sub: K Hitchcock), G Holt, T Boyd, V Jones, K Keown, J Terry, G. Smith, A Tonkinson, G Stewart, C Allen, D Wilson. Referee: G Pack.

## Ipswich strike a stylish note

Millwall ..... 2  
 Ipswich Town ..... 3  
 BY LOUISE TAYLOR

LOOKING attractive in an all-orange outfit is not easy, but Ipswich Town managed it at Millwall on Saturday. The colour of their kit was one of the few minuses in a stylish 3-2 win that kept John Lyall's team a point behind Blackburn Rovers at the top of the second division.

The biggest doubt about Ipswich's promotion hopes has centred on a tendency to be one-paced, but, on this evidence, Jason Dozzell and company are finally learning to change gear. Whereas once, they could spend an eternity passing to each other in their own half, Ipswich are now delivering a greater number of earlier, defence-threatening balls than of old.

That said, it did not take too much to trouble a

Millwall rearguard not only lacking the injured McCarthy but desperately short of pace. Ipswich found their hosts' midfield pretty lightweight, too. Bogle is no defensive midfield player, but he was forced into that role alongside the talented, but attack-minded, Verreeve and Rae.

Stockwell was thus afforded an embarrassing amount of space as he repeatedly ran through an almost tackle-free zone. With Dozzell and Milton passing sweetly and Kiwomya's speed a constant menace, Ipswich built a three-goal advantage.

The first, which arrived in the 33rd minute, was a cameo of their football. Dozzell initiated a five-man move he completed by side-footing home Kiwomya's cross.

Another passing sequence, just after the interval, resulted in Dozzell's effort being cleared, but Thompson was on hand to drive the ball home. Kiwomya shot the

third before Ipswich's momentum was disturbed by the introduction of Kerr. The Millwall substitute prompted a revival in which Rae reduced the deficit before Kerr himself converted an 85th-minute penalty.

After a 5-2 defeat at the bottom club, Oxford United, Osie Ardiles' Newcastle United look destined for the third division. Boasting the League's leakiest defence, Newcastle are second from bottom of the table. John Hall, the chairman, yesterday said there was "no question" of dismissing Ardiles, but, in reality, only the amount of compensation involved in terminating his £120,000-a-year contract has kept Ardiles in a job.

MILLWALL: A Dozzell, C Cooper, J James, A Verreeve, R Rae, D Verreeve, E Verner, J Bogle (sub: P Stevenson), J McInally, D Sturridge, J Thompson, M McManaman (sub: M Moran), S McManaman (sub: K Hitchcock), G Holt, T Boyd, V Jones, K Keown, J Terry, G. Smith, A Tonkinson, G Stewart, C Allen, D Wilson. Referee: K Captain.

WILLIAM: B Grobelaar, R Jones, D Venables, R Rosenthal, M Wright (sub: K Stevens), J McInally, D Sturridge, J Thompson, M McManaman (sub: M Moran), S McManaman (sub: K Hitchcock), G Holt, T Boyd, V Jones, K Keown, J Terry, G. Smith, A Tonkinson, G Stewart, C Allen, D Wilson. Referee: G Pack.

## SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to gate	Weather (Spin)	Last snow fall
<b>AUSTRIA</b>					
Achensee/Luzern	75	good	open	fine	-4C
	(Good conditions down to resort)				
Bad Gastein	40	130	good	open	-2C
	(Some lower slopes hard, but conditions still good)				
Fuegen	20	150	icy	closed	sun
	(Best skiing at Hochreigen, icy patches appearing elsewhere)				
Hopfgarten	30	90	hard	open	sun
	(4/5th's open. Some lower slopes icy)				
Westendorf	20	90	hard	open	sun
	(All 5th's open. Good conditions, but steep slopes icy)				
Zell am See	60	280	good	open	clear
	(Quite hard, but generally good conditions)				
Zuers	125	140	firm	open	sun
	(All 5th's open. Some South-facing slopes icy in morning)				
<b>FRANCE</b>					
Chamonix	70	150	good	hard	sun
	(Hard snow at most levels. Runs to resort icy and warm)				
Flaine	80	185	good	hard	line
	(Icy patches on slopes leading to resort)				
La Plagne	40	110	hard	open	fine
	(Fair skiing, but runs becoming worn with bare patches)				
Vallorbe	20	90	hard	icy	fine
	(Reasonable skiing. Lower slopes weaning thin)				
<b>SWEDEN</b>					
Are	30	50	ice	open	cloud
	(Skating above mid-station begins February 7)				
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>					
Chateau d'Œx	15	60	firm	open	sun
	(1/1st's open and off links. Reasonable skiing)				
Grindelwald	45	110	good	open	-5C
	(All 5th's open. Good upper skiing, hard on lower)				
Klosters	70	140	good	open	sun
	(Very good skiing. Link with Davos open)				
Saas Fee	65	180	good	open	sun
	(Good skiing throughout area)				
<b>UNITED STATES</b>					
Aspen	95	100	good	open	sun
	(Add temperatures, snow still reasonable)				
Park City	80	110	good	open	far
	(No new snow. Skating in all sun bowls)				
Vail	85	95	hard	open	sun
	(Add temperatures bringing spring-like conditions)				

Supplied by Ski Hotline. L and U refer to lower and upper slopes

## Pressure eases on manager Gould

West Bromwich Albion ..... 2  
 Brentford ..... 0

BY KEITH BLACKMORE

JUST when it seemed Brentford might be getting away from the third-division promotion pack, along came West Bromwich Albion to haul them back. West Brom's win at The Hawthorns on Saturday moved them into second place and cut Brentford's lead from five points to two.

It also relieved the pressure that had been mounting on Bobby Gould and his team. This West Brom's first season in the third division and, despite their relative success, the supporters are taking some time to get used to it.

The week before, West Brom had managed the unlikely feat of losing at home to Swindon City, despite leading 2-0 with only 13 minutes to play. That performance, combined with residual resentment over the sale of Don Goodman to Sunderland, prompted a prolonged terrace protest.

Gould soothed those supporters by going out to talk to them and in midweek he put his money where his mouth was, paying Bristol City £300,000 for Bob Taylor. It looked a good buy on paper — Taylor had scored 27 goals in City's successful promotion campaign two seasons before — and it soon looked good on the pitch too.

Taylor scored after 11 minutes, running on to Robson's pass before shooting under Bastein, and then produced a memorable volley, which Gould later likened to van Basten's goal in the last European championship final, that the goalkeeper barely managed to claw away.

By the time Taylor limped off with a dead leg after 53 minutes, West Brom were in command, Ferday having extended their lead. Brentford had no



more difficult by the introduction of a 21-step "staircase" to be climbed each lap. The tactic Hammond used was to get as close to the head of the field as possible to avoid fallen riders. "Luck was on my side," he said. "I worked my way up to the leaders, a rider fell in front of me on a slippery corner, and that put me in the lead."

Hammond's opportunity to sit in the saddle was regularly interrupted during the 7.7-mile race over four laps. The Roundhay Park circuit, including sufficient natural obstacles for a commando course, was made

Results, page 23

## SNOOKER

### Reynolds breaks his duck

DEAN Reynolds tasted victory for the first time in five appearances at the tournament when he beat Mike Hallen 5-3 to reach the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters at the Wembley Conference Centre yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

High crosses aimed at their numerous tall men occasionally caused Naylor to flap like a bird, but they produced a revival in which Rae reduced the deficit before Kerr himself converted an 85th-minute penalty.

Afterwards, Gould happily recalled that, as manager of Wimbledon, he had once offered £750,000 for Taylor and had been refused. "He's had a rough time recently, but his goal-scoring was outstanding," he said.

West Brom have reached a crucial stage of their season. Next week, they travel the short distance to play Birmingham City, who are fourth. Then they meet Stoke City, who moved into third place on Saturday.

- RUGBY UNION 22
- RACING 24, 25
- FOOTBALL 26, 27

# THE TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 3 1992

Four-match visit planned for autumn

## South Africans set date to play England

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH Africa will play four rugby union games in England, including an international at Twickenham, in the autumn, if the executive committee of their newly-integrated governing body gives its approval.

The new body, the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarf), will not be formally launched until March 20, but plans are already being drawn up by its tours committee for ratification. When the Sarf executive meets on February 22, it will be invited to approve an autumn schedule embracing an eight-match tour to France, including two internationals, followed immediately by the four-match visit to England.

That executive meeting will also hear reports from the South African representatives who visit Sydney on February 15 for discussions with their opposite numbers from Australia, New Zealand and Argentina, which will include a projected southern-hemisphere championship.

But the South Africans are concerned that their new tour itinerary should generate funds for a development programme in the townships. "Our new body has no money at all and if we are to develop an integrated game, we need funds," Nic Labuschagne, the Natal president and a leading member of the Sarf executive committee, said.

This embraces the concept proposed by Joe French, the Australian Rugby Union president, last summer, that

a proportion of the money generated by the 1991 World Cup should go towards the development of the game in South Africa, especially in the townships, and to provide facilities for coloured and black youngsters. The South Africans have in mind the possibility of gate-money from nominated tour games going towards such a development fund.

The proposed date for an international with England is November 14, and the South Africans would also play England. It is possible that such a match would persuade some England players to defer retirement from international rugby to play against the country which, with New Zealand, has historically dominated world rugby.

England's 38-9 victory over Ireland on Saturday brought from Philip Matthews, the Irish captain, the tribute that their performance was "probably the best of any side I have played against".

England lead the five nations' championship table after a victory which puts them half-way towards a second successive grand slam. Their next match is against France in Paris on February 15 and Philippe Sella, the French captain, admitted after Saturday's 12-9 win over Wales in Cardiff that England were "by far the best team in Europe".

"They are very strong and it will be hard for this young French team," Sella said. He denied that there would be thoughts of retribution from

his team after the aggression of the World Cup quarter-final in Paris. "We know each other well and have respect for each other. There will be no problems."

There were suggestions after the match in Cardiff that the French had flouted International Rugby Football Board regulations by making a tactical substitution at half-time, bringing on Olivier Roumat for Christophe Mougeot to bolster the lineout. Roumat could be seen warming up five minutes before Mougeot limped off, but John Davies, the Welsh Rugby Union doctor, confirmed that the Bégles lock was suffering from a pulled calf muscle.

"I wasn't prepared to let Roumat take the field before I had examined Mougeot," Davies said. "But it was a genuine injury and his leg became swollen during Saturday night. It's so hard to tell with soft-tissue injuries. Pierre Berbizier (the French coach) said he was prepared to continue with 14 men."

Alan Davies, the Welsh coach, said their tactical replacements might be worth considering. "It would certainly prevent some of the accusations surrounding the game and would lead to some intriguing options with a squad of 21 players. It's difficult for the doctors at the moment, because there is no way you can stop a player leaving the field."

England's triumph, page 22  
French win, page 22



Pointing the way: DeFreitas celebrates his dismissal of the New Zealand captain, Crowe, yesterday

## Teams fail to offer compulsive viewing

Aston Villa 0-0  
Everton 0-0

BY STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A GAME plucked out of the first division's weekend programme for no good reason and shown live on television

yesterday afternoon meandered aimlessly around Villa Park. Watched by just 17,451 spectators, the club's second lowest League crowd of the season, it petered out to a predictably tame and inconsequential finish.

The event could be a powerful argument against those who complain that too many

Sunday shows cover only the leaders. At least their fixtures tend to be enriched by passion, meaningful incidents and vociferous audiences. Yesterday's lifeless display was all but devoid of interest.

Aston Villa, who had risen to fourth place before Christmas, have fallen back into comparative obscurity since.

Apart from eliminating Tottenham Hotspur from the FA Cup, they have not won any of their last six matches and have not even claimed a goal in their last five.

That dismal sequence was only twice under threat. Tony Daley, with his blistering speed, fashioned both their openings with low crosses which fell to Dwight Yorke, a West Indian whose reliability in front of goal is usually assured.

His first attempt, in the sixteenth minute, was deflected by Neville Southall. His second, in the 53rd, beat Everton's goalkeeper but struck Martin Keown, who was stationed on the line, and nudged the foot of a post. Villa's front line, a combination of power and pace, was otherwise held securely.

So was Everton, which has the relative stature of a row of dwarves. Incongruously, they continued to line up with two wingers, Peter Beagrie and Pat Nevin, whose crosses are inevitably futile. By the time they have engineered another method of supply, their colleagues are invariably heavily guarded.

Everton, knocked out of the

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT  
IN BAYONNE

THE last rites were administered to Britain's Davis Cup challenge in Bayonne yesterday, the 5-0 whitewash at the hands of France being predictable enough, the manner of it less so.

Defeat for Jeremy Bates and Neil Broad in the doubles on Saturday had assured the champions of a second-round place against Switzerland in March, and condemned Britain to a long and frustrating wait before they discover their own fate. But, for a team in danger of being

At Villa Park. Att: 17,451. Ref: P Don. Home League record v Everton: P 76, W 36, D 16, L 24

HT: 0-0. ASTON VILLA 0 EVERTON 0

Scores: Bookings: Subs: Oney 76 (Regis) Werzchka 69 (Borsigsky)

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2) EVERTON (4-4-2)

Player	Goals	Crosses	Fouls	Player	Goals	Crosses	Fouls
L Sealey	4	9	8	L Southall	3	2	4
D Kuykendall	3	7	4	G Jackson	25	18	1
S Thompson	1	1	1	J Ebdon	1	1	1
S Testa	1	1	1	D Watson	1	1	1
P McGrath	1	1	1	P Keown	1	1	1
K McAllister	1	1	1	P Beagrie	1	1	1
A Daley	2	4	3	D Yorke	1	1	1
S Frossard	11	13	8	J Leconte	1	1	1
C Regis	1	1	1	P Cawley	1	1	1
D Yorke	2	2	1	M Broad	1	1	1
J O'Ney	1	1	1	R Ward	1	1	1
Unused: M Breitkreuz	0	0	0	R Werzchka	1	1	1

Shots (on target/total) 4/9 3/8 21/25 11/16 Offsides 32/32 32/32 Possession (gained/lost) 31/31 31/31

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2) EVERTON (4-4-2)

Goals: Crosses: Fouls: Player: L Sealey 1 4 3 1 Player: L Southall 3 1 1 1 G Jackson 1 1 1 1 J Ebdon 1 1 1 1 D Watson 1 1 1 1 P Keown 1 1 1 1 P Beagrie 1 1 1 1 D Yorke 1 1 1 1 J Leconte 1 1 1 1 P Cawley 1 1 1 1 M Broad 1 1 1 1 R Ward 1 1 1 1 R Werzchka 1 1 1 1

front of goal, with four shots. Frossard was the only ray of light on a dull home side performance, managing just three target attempts; Villa had a similar record in their corner.

Compiled by Julian Desborough

FOR the third successive weekend, Everton have failed to impress with a dull forward line which managed just three target attempts; Villa had a similar record in their corner.

Compiled by Julian Desborough

front directly at Sealey.

The rest of the game, staged on a patchwork of a pitch, remained only momentarily in the memory. Stephen Froggatt is unlikely to forget it, though. Selected by Ron Atkinson for only the second time in his career, he was voted man of the match.

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EDUCATION  
Why County  
Hall is  
custom-made  
for the LSE

# LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY FEBRUARY 3 1992



SPECIAL OFFER  
Fly free, stay  
free, around  
the world with  
The Times

Rogue  
pitch  
takes  
toll

## Feminine beauty of a feral beast

Stephen Bayley  
reports on the  
latest low-slung  
model of Britain's  
sexiest car, and the  
hopes and fears  
driving its launch

When readers of *Road and Track*, an American magazine, were polled on the most beautiful cars ever made, two of the final shortlist were Jaguars: the infamously phallic E-Type (1961) and the definitively elegant XJ6 (1968).

The Jaguar corporate story has the structure, texture and detail of myth: unlikely origins followed by a heroic youth, while a manhood of distinction fades into a melancholy middle age only to achieve an astonishing revival in later life. Jaguar was the creation of an ambitious, talented misfit called William Lyons, in whose soul artistry vied with craftsmanship. Born into a Blackpool business called Lyons' Music and Piano-forte Warehouse, he began making Swallow sidecars just before his 21st birthday. By 1927 Swallow was packaging custom bodies for the Austin 7. On the back of an order from Henry's for 500 of this pert little special, Lyons established himself as a wheels-up car manufacturer. Swallow Sidecars evolved into SS which Lyons, mindful of the parallel activities of a different SS elsewhere in Europe, changed to Jaguar in 1935. He took the name from a first world war Armstrong-Siddeley aircraft engine.

Like Enzo Ferrari, a cunning peasant-mechanic, Lyons was not a trained designer himself, but one of those magical people capable of inspiring and synthesising other people's details into a magnificent whole. Jaguars were not Mercedes-Benzes, but cars conceived by a salesman of genius: there was a strong element of lash-up and make-do, of intuition backed up by borrowing from aerospace aesthetics and technology.

The XK120 was the first sensational Jaguar. Using an engine conceived by Lyons and his colleagues while on fire watch in Coventry, this astonishingly beautiful car (whose looks were a redrafting of the pre-war BMW 328, with its swooping curves and mammary mudguards) was launched in October 1948. The following May, in an event as important to the history of PR as to engineering, a stripped-down XK120 did 132mph before journalists flown into the Jabbeke highway, a primal Euro motorway near Dunkirk. It was established that Jaguars were fast.

Every Jaguar design is a classic, but classic status is only ever achieved from success in racing (which is why the Japanese, whose cars lack nothing except cachet, are so anxious to succeed on the circuits). In the 1950s Jaguar won the "Vingt-quatre heures du Mans" five times in C and D-Types designed by Malcolm Sayer, a professional aerodynamicist.

Now everyone leaves their workplace for the last time with a neckful of sherry and a carriage-clock. Last week the eyes of the nation — at least of all bakers, fiers, sackers, sackies, chucks-out and flouncers-out — were riveted upon the louche case of Laura Watson's Last Day. Mrs Watson is the Maidstone solicitor who, upon being dismissed, alleged that her employers behaved like "toads". She says she was supervised as she emptied her office drawers, then frogmarched — or perhaps toad-marched, or at least unwillingly escorted — by two partners and the personnel manager to her company a quarter of a mile away, where she was divested of its keys. Mrs Watson didn't like this, hence the slander case. She had hoped, she said plaintively, "to leave with some kind of dignity."

The case ended in failure before the defence could say much, so we shall never know everything about what seethes behind the prim facades of Kentish legal practices.



Top: the XJ220, epitome of Jaguar tradition, now an image-builder for Ford; the first 350 production cars will be delivered this summer. Above: the XJR9 — Jaguar has always depended on racing success

The racing cars of the Fifties led directly to the famous E-Type of 1961, a technical and commercial triumph certainly, but one whose design managed to distil animal spirit and mechanical necessity into a morphology both ravishingly beautiful and meaningful.

All Jaguars have the grace and hint of aggression possessed by wild animals, a sense of muscle under the skin. It is revealing how the vocabulary used to describe Jaguar design continuously relies on natural metaphors: indeed, *evolution* is the key to Jaguar styling, but the XJ6 was the last, if the most complete, expression of Lyons as a carmaker. In 1966 he made the fateful decision to sell out to BMC.

In the melancholy history of British industrial decline there are few episodes so depressing as the descent of Jaguar, first into British Motor Holdings, then into British Leyland Motor Holdings and then into Leyland Cars, a tragic farce choreographed by Tony Benn's terrifying MinTech. Jaguars appeared with hideous plastic Leyland badges and foul details sourced from the Austin-Morris parts bin. Sir William Lyons was himself not above a bit of inspired lifting, but this was destructive low church parsimony.

Just as the memories of glory at Le Mans were fading, Jaguars were achieving reliability factors close to zero. All the magnificent image-building work done by the racers and the sum of memory remaining from Sayer's glorious shapes and Lyons' showroom inspirations was being rapidly eroded by the familiar sights of

Marina-coloured XJ6s with trim hanging off and sparking on the hard shoulder.

Then, in conformity to the expectations of myth, a white knight appeared. In the Camelot of the Thatcher decade there was no knight whiter than John Egan, who dragged Jaguar from the swamp of state ownership into its 1983 privatisation. The demoralised workforce was marginally gingered-up and suppliers who

had grown comfortable selling garbage to Jaguar were made responsible for failures. Mr Egan introduced competitiveness and Quality Control. He invested in research and development. By the mid-1980s, Jaguars were even appearing with high specification German components. A business school case study of decline and fall had been translated into an example of doing it right.

The cars began to reclaim

reliability, and lost their raffishness. The XJ6 was Mrs Thatcher's preferred vehicle. When in 1989 I opened The Design Museum she asked me why we did not have one in the permanent collection. I was going to explain, but events overtook both of us... and Jaguar.

Mr Egan's achievements were very real, but too much in Camelot was built on sand. While Jaguar regained quality, morale and image, it was powered by unsound

money. Sure, the figures all looked magnificent in the blinding light of '85, but they could not sustain close scrutiny.

In business terms, Jaguar was perilously dependent on one model (the 1986 XJ40) and one market (the United States). One blip in demand and, despite sophisticated foreign currency hedging, Jaguar looked vulnerable. Worse, it could not generate enough revenue to fund the research and development of new cars whose cost is routinely in the billions. Jaguar was bucking it, something which Ford discovered when it bought Jaguar for \$2.56 billion in 1989.

All big manufacturers have found trophy brands: General Motors has Saab, Fiat has Alfa Romeo, and Ford wanted Jaguar for access to premium markets. To some this marriage may seem incongruous, but for all his flamboyance, Sir William Lyons ran his business with a very sharp pencil and it is nicely appropriate that Jaguar, with its tradition of inspirational get-by, is now owned by the Universal Masters of Manufacturing and Marketing.

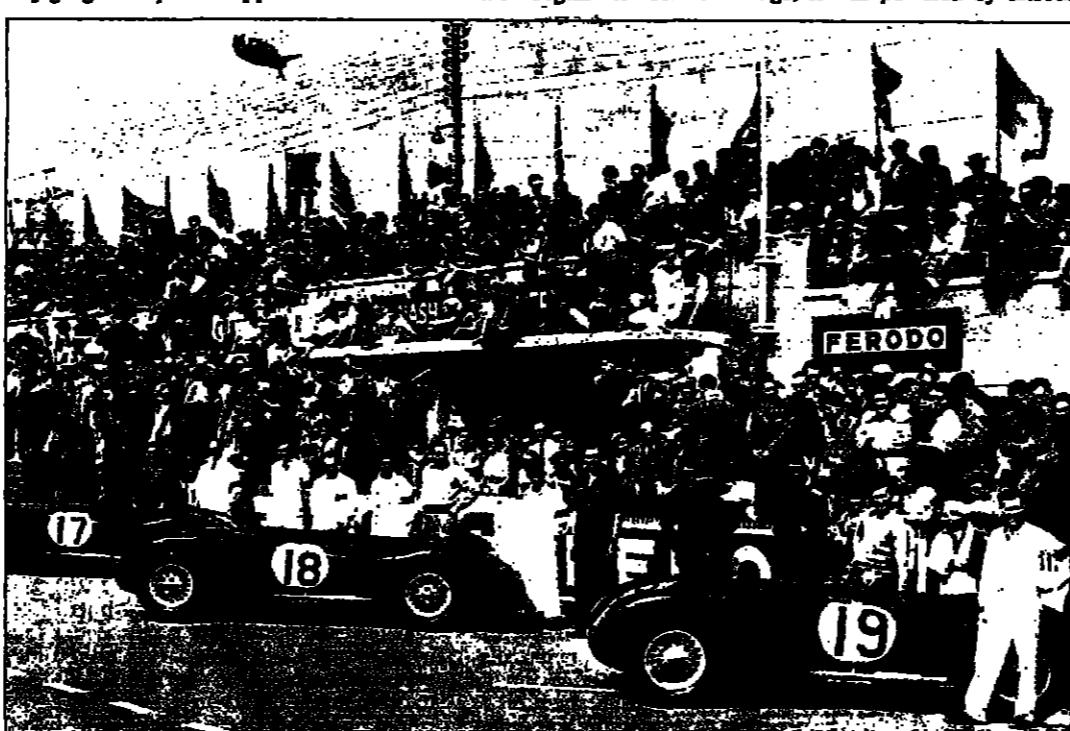
It is a delicate situation: Ford needs to make Jaguar more profitable, but not at the risk of cheapening what made it valuable in the first place: image. The official line is that Ford reviews Jaguar's business plans, but engineering and design are independent. It is significant that under new ownership, the extraordinary XJ220, conceived in the optimism and independence of the early 1980s with a fine disregard for rationality, has been sanctioned

for limited production: the first 350 production cars will be delivered this summer.

The appearance of this quintessential image-building exercise has been the responsibility of Geoff Lawson, a Royal College of Art graduate who joined Jaguar from Vauxhall in 1984. Mr Lawson is keenly aware of his responsibilities of moving Jaguar forward, while not departing from tradition. He is articulate about Jaguar design: the cars must have a sense of movement, even when stationary; they must be feminine, but not effeminate; the radii must follow the natural inclinations of bent metal: the wheels and tyres and wheel wells are all large, with very little sheet metal above the rubber, to give the cars an impressive and tense feral stance: the glasshouse must have a certain formal relationship to the rest of the car, to give an impression of sitting in it.

The XJ220 may not have the original beauty of the E-Type or the XJ6, but it is a remarkable machine which confirms two things: first, the power of cars to move us, body and soul, even in these uncertain times; and secondly, that Ford believes in Jaguar. The only part missing from this myth is the resurrection of Sir William Lyons.

Arts	2,3
Times Present	4
Looks	5
Science	6
Education	7-9
TV, Radio	12



Winners: Jaguar finished first (with the C-type No 18), second and fourth in the 1958 Le Mans

## Sack me with some dignity — please

WORKING LIFE: Libby Purves on the etiquette of the elbow



"Where do I work?" says the victim, and "Well, now see here. Frank's that's a thing I want very much to talk to you about, but I haven't time right now."

I always took that as poetic licence, until I met an old man who worked in Los Angeles in the

1930s and claimed that he once came back from holiday to find his office door actually bricked up (although in fairness, the point he was making was that he preferred this attitude to the modern craze for outplacement, counselling and relocation therapy and euphemisms like "We're letting you go"). You knew where you were with bricks, he felt.

But how do we want to go? Farewell parties are fine, provided your divorce from this particular job is natural and mutual. The main hardship falls upon colleagues who have to think of something amusing to write in your leaving card, and on whoever gets to trudge round John Lewis

looking for a salad bowl costing precisely £8.36, that being the

total of the whip-round. Even if you hate leaving rituals, never underestimate their murky emotional importance. It is now eleven years since I left the Radio 4 Today programme, where for seven years I had contributed to salad bowls in a tribally close and happy office. Unfortunately, I was the last of a spate of other departures including the editor, so everyone was too fed up even to remember to sign a card. I was the first person ever to pass out of that office without ritual, and the shaming, incredible fact is that I still resent it. It is a missing rite of passage, unfinished business, unburied dead.

Sackings, redundancies and easings-out, however, leave a problem for both sides. Managements want a quick severance, preferably without sabotage. Their victims want drama.

The boss wants to hang around

to ensure that the departing one does not vengefully dial the New York speaking clock or plant gremlins in the software: the victim wants a chance to impress himself on colleagues as a wronged and tragic figure, not a buffoon with a carrier bag.

We want to make heroic little speeches to the faithful, like Sidney Carton on the guillotine or Charlie Haughey at Fianna Fail HQ.

When Desmond Wilcox left the BBC in not unstormy circumstances, he gathered the staff round, and some of them cried. Then one disciple said: "Oh Desmond, what will you do?" And he said: "There is a tree stump in my garden. I am going to dig it up."

Mr Wilcox has, of course, done more than OK since. So I rang him up and asked whether there really was a stump, and whether he dug it up. "There was and I did," he replied. "It took ten days. After that I knew what to do next."

TOMORROW  
Mid Life: Neil Lyndon

Now everyone leaves their workplace for the last time with a neckful of sherry and a carriage-clock. Last week the eyes of the nation — at least of all bakers, fiers, sackers, sackies, chucks-out and flouncers-out — were riveted upon the louche case of Laura Watson's Last Day. Mrs Watson is the Maidstone solicitor who, upon being dismissed, alleged that her employers behaved like "toads". She says she was supervised as she emptied her office drawers, then frogmarched — or perhaps toad-marched, or at least unwillingly escorted — by two partners and the personnel manager to her company a quarter of a mile away, where she was divested of its keys. Mrs Watson didn't like this, hence the slander case. She had hoped, she said plaintively, "to leave with some kind of dignity."

The case ended in failure before the defence could say much, so we shall never know everything about what seethes behind the prim facades of Kentish legal practices.

\* The Wind in the Willows • Murmuring Judges • The Night of the Iguana • The Sea • The Madness of George III • Angels in America • The Little Clay Cart • Uncle Vanya • Murmuring Judges  
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Easy when you know how, eh?





## TELEVISION REVIEW

**The mimic stays masked**

**A**s the conclusion to Paul Joyce's profile of Peter Sellers, Best Sellers (Channel 4), Mai Zetterling, his co-star in *Only Two Can Play*, was asked what image came into her mind when she thought of the comedian: "Something I can't tell you", she replied enigmatically. Beryl Reid had already told us: "I don't think he had any definite ideas about himself."

For his own part Sellers once said, "There used to be a me behind the mask, but I had it surgically removed" and, "If you ask me to play myself, I will not know what to do. I do not know who or what I am." Sellers might have been the original of Woody Allen's Leonard Zelig, the man without a personality, forced into a chequered-like adoption of other people's roles.

The programme seemed almost perversely determined not to penetrate the Sellers mask. Not that this antiquated style of interviewing fragmentary face-to-camera interviews is ever very probing. Sellers' former co-stars Spike Milligan and Graham Stark and some of his directors offered anecdotes and impressions which revealed little or nothing beyond Milligan's kindly verdict: "a very nice man with a very tortured personality". Sidney Gilliat provided one of the few insights: "He was tantalised by challenge of playing utter ordinariness. Eventually he confused it with vacuousness."

The sense of mystery remained. The only biographical information the programme offered was that Sellers had a possessive Jewish mother and a father whom Milligan thought "was dead only nobody had told him"; that the star's growing eccentricities included capriciously firing people who wore the wrong colours; that he suffered heart attacks; that he died.

As for the work, the programme covered only about six out of Sellers' 30 years of activity, and referred to a mere half dozen out of his 50 films — the ones with which the interviewees themselves had been associated. There was hardly a mention for instance of *The Lady Killers*, *The Mouse that Roared*, *Lolita*, or, practically, the *Pink Panther* films and his last, most touching appearance as a true nonentity in *Being There*.

The programme — an elaborate trailer for Channel 4's Sellers season — hardly seemed to vindicate

DAVID ROBINSON

• Television listings, page 12

## TOMORROW IN LIFE &amp; TIMES

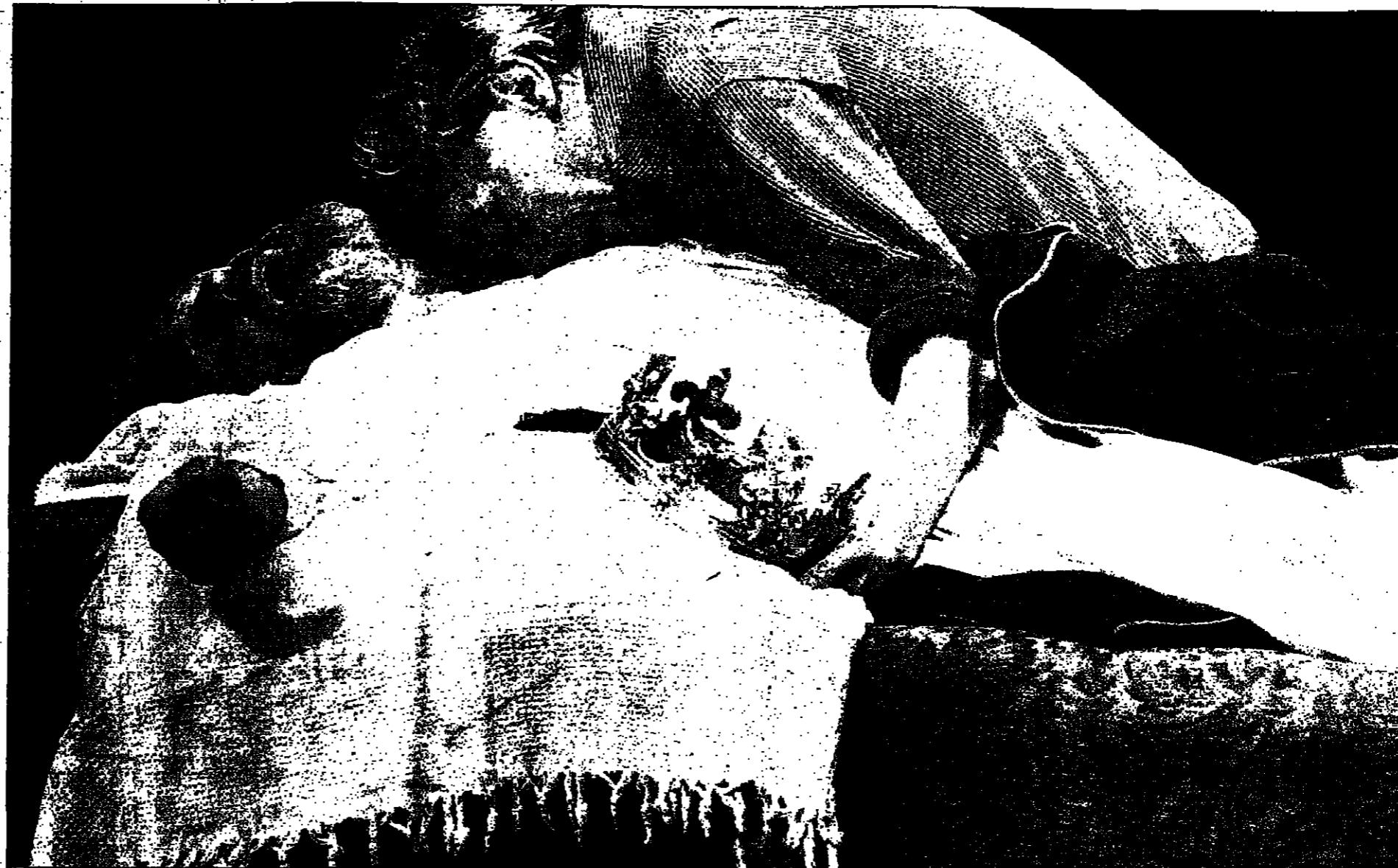
David Sinclair reviews the Rolling Stones' new film and Jeremy Kingston previews a stage version of Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast* novels

**"Tamba should have been celebrating her 13th birthday in Eritrea. Instead she was descending the steps of a plane, alone in a strange country with nowhere to go."**

Angela Neustatter meets refugee children who arrive unaccompanied at Britain's airports and finds out how the Asylum Bill could make life worse or better

**Alarums and excursions**

DONALD COOPER



Shakespeare renewed: Patrick O'Connell as Henry IV and Michael Pennington as Hal in the English Shakespeare Company's *The Henrys*

## THEATRE

**A blow-by-blow account of the English Shakespeare Company has been written by its founders. Benedict Nightingale dips into this torrid chronicle of thespians on tour**

**O**nly ten years ago the larger sort of touring company, trucking its *Macbeth* and *Hamlet* from Liverpool to Newcastle one week and Newcastle to Plymouth the next, seemed to be pretty much a thing of the past. Prospect Theatre, the last of the species, had rather literally met its Waterloo in 1981. It moved to SE1, rechristened itself the Old Vic Company, and ignominiously expired, the victim of its deepening debts. Most people would have predicted that only tiny, tribal outfit — a Monstrous Regiment; a Paines Plough — would be touring by the 1990s.

Yet now the larger touring company looks very much a thing of the future. It calls itself the National Theatre, the RSC, Renaissance Theatre or the English Shakespeare Company, and it takes its *Richard III* or its *Leah*, not just from Plymouth to Newcastle, but to Tokyo, Melbourne and Chicago, using foreign profits to help finance its British work. That is particularly useful now that most of our regional rep can no longer afford permanent companies of any size or quality. For some cities the burgeoning English Shakespeare Company, in particular, becoming the prime supplier of Shakespeare's English.

That would have left me with mixed feelings even if I had not read Michael Bogdanov and Michael Pennington's book about the first years of the company they created in 1986. Now I have finished their remarkably candid contribution to theatre history, my emotions are even more confused. After all, what has been the effect of Bogdanov's determination to "strip away meaningless clichés" and "open the plays out for new, young audiences"? What have been the results of Pennington's belief in "mischief and serious verse-speaking"?

The first and finest result was a seven-play cycle, *Richard II* to *Richard III*, that brought outstage gentlemen in frock-coats and skinheads brandishing obscene anti-French banners, a Falstaff in a loud, striped

lounge-suit and a Gadshill with a Mohican hairstyle. It was outrageous, impossible, but it fizzed and buzzed as more conventional history-lessons seldom do. But last year came a *Merchant of Venice* which transformed Portia into Eva Braun and the rest of Shakespeare's more upbeat characters into anti-Semitic creeps, making nonsense of the play's romantic pretensions. The approach that had once given the Bard a lift now sank him with hardly a trace.

Yet whatever the reservations about its work, there can only be admiration for the pluck, grit and sheer glutony for punishment that built the ESC into the force it is now. Here, perhaps, is the chief importance of Pennington and Bogdanov's tone. It is a case-study of an implausible success, instructively describing how to create a classical company, stay out of the bankruptcy courts, and live in hotels for months on end: all without quite going mad.

Actually, mental disturbance was among the many problems that had to be faced. One company member set fire to Pennington's dressing room, ran away during rehearsals, and ended up shaving off his eyebrows and throwing himself off Blackfriars Bridge. A distraught assistant stage manager opened a gala performance at the Royal Alexandra in Toronto by striding onstage wearing nothing but boxer shorts festooned with small, pink, copulating rabbits. The Canadian

tour never fully recovered, which was doubly unfortunate since the Mirvishes, the Alex's owners, had put up one-third of the £360,000 it had cost to launch the ESC.

The Arts Council never gave large sums, and at the start just £100,000; and the British Council was at first

hostile. So the company lived hand to mouth, unable to persuade some host theatres to offer even a modest guarantee against loss.

Pennington and Bogdanov regularly

dipped into their own pockets and came close to mortgaging their houses to support plans that had already caused half their board to resign in protest at their lack of caution. And yet by late 1988 a deficit of £50,000 had become a healthy surplus.

Overseas trips — to Hong Kong, Tokyo, Chicago, Berlin — were the main explanation. Nevertheless, Pennington clearly understates when he writes that "the touring life is a hell of a strain". Only 25 actors were performing the seven plays, and that meant a system of doubling and understanding of perilous complexity. What was to be done when the King of France came down with pneumonia and Exeter with a mysterious virus? How was the wretched actor understanding them both supposed to play their joint scene in *Henry V*?

Actors who did not know a part in the morning sometimes found themselves playing it that night. One Sunday in Connecticut, Pennington died onstage five times, in roles

**Behind the acrimony there was a gypsy loyalty**

that had once given the Bard a lift now sank him with hardly a trace.

Then there was the rehearsal in which John Castle, playing Henry IV, decided that Pennington, as Hal, was sneering at him, and slapped him violently on the face. There seems to have ensued a furious discussion about whether Pennington or Hal was responsible for the insult. Pennington sneered again. Castle struck him even harder, and Pennington walked out while Castle yelled, "you see you can't take it, be a man!" At times some actors were speaking to each other only onstage.

The ESC should not have survived, yet it did, in many ways triumphantly. There seems to have been a gypsy loyalty behind the acrimony, a spirit of adventure, a resilience and a sheer love of the work which saw the company through. They have re-enacted Shakespeare by espousing old theatrical values. I cannot promise not to protest when and if they transform Petruccio into Norman Mailer and Katherine into Andrea Dworkin, and set *The Shrew* itself in Trump Tower; but they have already set the rest of the profession a formidable example.

ranging from Jack Cade to the Earl of Rutland's tutor. In Melbourne, Jack Carr saw so many unexpected faces in one scene that he exited, thinking he had made a wrong entrance. There, too, the only stage manager who knew every permutation turned out to be pregnant and fell ill.

Touring took its human toll in other ways, too. Often, Pennington and Bogdanov became the butt of the company's rage, held responsible for inadequate hotels, or sausages that failed to appear at breakfast, or the half-finished Frankfurt theatre in which the cast had to perform in thermal underwear. There was even a mid-murky after the Earl of Cambridge fainted while being arrested for treachery and Pennington, playing Henry V, lost his temper with his giggling fellow-actors. "I never really got popular again that year," he remarks.

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• The English Shakespeare Company by Michael Bogdanov and Michael Pennington. Nick Hern Books, £14.95

## ARTS BRIEF

**Trained poets**

LONDON's long-suffering commuters may have mixed feelings about seeing Kean's observation that "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever". Nevertheless, an extract from *Endymion*, from which that line comes, is included in the latest Poems on the Underground, which made their debut on 4,000 tube-train walls last week. Work by Marlowe, Plath, Apollinaire, the Caribbean poet Andrew Salkey and Maura Dooley are also chosen.



Superb: Anthony Sher

**Last chance...**

THE analogy Brecht draws between Hitler's emergence and a gangster's hijacking of the Chicago Cauliflower Trust is pretty clumsy. Yet Antony Sher gives a superb performance in the National Theatre staging of his *Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*: a shifty sewer-rat, venomously eyeballing a terrified world from the top of a 20-foot podium. His charismatic posturings end on Thursday at the Olivier (071-928 2252).

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

**All fingers and plums**

**Hilary Finch on the highlights among last week's concerts at the Festival Hall**

the finale seemed to be running on the spot.

This was a week of virtuoso instrumentalists rather than virtuoso musicians. On Tuesday, Midori focused attention entirely on the violin and her diminutive self: Sibelius's music seemed incidental.

A cunning move: what, then, was his best? Not, one hopes, the Beethoven offered at his Festival Hall debut on Thursday. A trivialising orchestral introduction from the London Philharmonic and Franz Welser-Möst set the stage for a disappointingly narcissistic account of the Third Piano Concerto.

Anderszewski seemed mesmerised by what his fingers could do; which was, indeed, plenty. There were razor-sharp octaves, rhythmic ripples and notes which fell exquisitely into place in perfectly judged undertones. There was dense black and white. But Beethoven's own spectrum of harmonic and emotional colour was barely glimpsed, and

that, the customary solo spot was taken by the brass ensemble of the Royal Philharmonic.

In a most imaginative prelude to Walton's First Symphony, three of Giovanni Gabriele's *Sacrae Symphoniae* of 1597 were conducted by Peter Bassano, himself a descendant of the Venetian family that played in Gabriele's own ensemble.

Then Vladimir Ashkenazy conducted a resounding, confident performance of the Walton at the end of a week of cumulatively revealing symphonic reassessment. His own advocacy of Vaughan Williams's Fifth on Tuesday had been no less convincing.

Both this work and Marinu's Fifth Symphony, which Welser-Möst conducted on Thursday, were written in the context of the second world war. Ashkenazy and the RPO, with their exceptionally fine string playing, seemed to be exploring a spiritual vision. In the Martinu, Welser-Möst — equally appropriately, and with a raw energy — sought out with the LPO the maximum dislocation: tempo, rhythm and dissonance racked the work on its long path to ultimate vindication.

1992 Award for a Choral Conductor. Applications are invited for this Award of £1,000.

BRITISH CHORAL FESTIVAL

Interviews and auditions will be held in Leicester on Thursday, 14 May 1992.

Adjudicators: Peter Fletcher (Chairman), Sir David Willcocks, Stephen Darlington and László Heltay.

Further details from the Administrator, BYFC, 2 Headcoat Street, Loughborough, Leics. LE11 3BW. Tel 0509 211664.

Closing date for entries: 21 March 1992. Sponsored by British Gas as part of their programme of community involvement.

British Gas

HILARY FINCH

## Why is a politician not like an undertaker?

Tony Banks stands bare-chested but brazen as electrodes are stuck to his nipples and a monitor attached to his bottom.

The Labour MP is not undergoing some sort of pre-election allegiance test, he's doing his bit to prove what honorable members have been telling us for years: being a politician is stressful.

The extrovert MP for Newham North West, London is taking part in a test to assess the amount of pressure an MP goes through in a typical day. It involves blood tests, a questionnaire and being wired up to monitors which record heart beat and blood pressure.

The day starts with a 6.00am alarm call and a dash to the Harley Street offices of Dr Malcolm Carruthers. Stress is clearly a lucrative business. It is Mr Banks's first sampling of private medicine, and he hopes it is only doing it in the interests of science.

Dr Carruthers is also head of chemical pathology at the Maudsley hospital, London, but

For one thing, a day in the House of Commons could be even deadlier than a trip to the mortuary

he has spent the past 25 years investigating ways of coping with stress. He believes a form of meditation called Autogenic Training plus good old exercise are the answer. He helped set up the House of Commons gym and has a number of parliamentary clients.

"Being an MP is one of the most stressful jobs you can have," he says. "The hours are long, members have to spend long periods away from their families, there is a lot of public performing and you are very visible."

MPs apparently share their propensity to stress with policemen and journalists, while undertakers are least affected. Mr Banks looks remarkably pressure-free on the morning of the experiment. Then he gets the first bit of bad news: Dr Carruthers insists on five test tubes full of blood from the MP's veins. "Norman Tebbit would be proud of you," Mr Banks says.

The questionnaire proves less painful. Mr Banks merely has to rate the stress factor of specific situations from one to ten. He is quizzed about personal relationships, work, money, illness, worry and decision making.

Mr Banks admits to being competitive but not very ambitious, poor on punctuality but intolerant of latecomers and someone who tries to look casual but cares a lot about what others think of his performance.

Most of his answers are relaxed ones and twos. But a question on a change in work routine gets a nine. "Neil could say, 'Eric Tone, how would you like to be Chancellor of the Exchequer? I'd probably die on the spot.'

Question time over, he willingly bares his chest to be wired up so his heart and blood rate can be monitored during the day. Zipped



Tony Banks: stress levels vary

up, wired up and hyped up Mr Banks strides out of the surgery and hails a cab, already late for a speech on a traffic Bill in the House of Commons.

A young Conservative member is on his feet in the chamber suggesting buses should have bumpers to shunt cars out of bus lanes, and harking back to the good old days of horse-drawn

traffic. Mr Banks interjects to talk about horse manure, and the fact that he used to collect it in buckets to sell to neighbours for 2d a bucket. The stress monitor is now showing a rapid increase in Mr Banks's heartbeat as he starts to take part in the debate. The average person's heart rate when resting is between 70 and 80 beats a minute. The more stressed the higher the heart rate. Danger level is 220 beats a minute. For 47-year-old Mr Banks, that's 173.

As soon as Mr Banks begins his speech — at 10.56am — his heart rate rockets to 129. As he gets into his stride it settles at 122: the adrenalin still pumping furiously.

Clearly some subjects make him more angry than others. "The roads are worse than ever", makes the monitor reading rise to 147. And it hits 144 when he points out that his wife, that's 173.

four people in four cars take up more space than a double decker bus.

A dash to the members' car park raises his heart rate to 110; he is desperate to try to beat the rush-hour traffic and get back for a constituency surgery.

Getting into his Escort XR3i is about as stressful as speaking in the Commons, according to the monitor, and Mr Banks's heart rate goes up to 99. He admits the job affects him: "It's a treadmill," he says. "I think I cope quite well, but probably because I am not easily ambitious."

Dr Carruthers, later armed with the results of the test to present to Mr Banks, agrees: "You cope with stress very well, mainly because of your attitude," the doctor says.

"You are occasionally angry and irritable, but you've got a lot of energy and a very positive attitude to life. Cholesterol and fat level is low, that's good. But you've got a

slight case of what I call the galloping gin and tonics, that's a mildly raised liver enzyme level. But then alcohol is part of an MP's life.

"My advice with an election coming up is improve your handling of stress. That means more physical exercise or meditation.

"But overall, congratulations. It's a very good picture."

Mr Banks is pleased with the results. "I was surprised at the high levels of stress when I spoke in the House," he says. "I do feel nervous when I make a speech, but I didn't realise how much it affects me."

"I think it's another good reason why politicians should retire at 65 the way they make other people do. If I felt my old ticker couldn't take it any more I'd go like a shot."

"As it is, from what these tests show, I've got plenty of time yet."

FIONA WEBSTER

• Tony Banks's day will be shown on The Day on LWT on February 26, and repeated on February 29.

## A home for all seasons

Walter Ellis finds the music hall still alive and kicking in a suburban house where the curtain has never gone down on a generation of stars

There is a roll-call to savour. Atlas and Vulcan, Apollo, the Two Boys, Mrs "Atalanta" Bertram, George Formby, Queenie Leighton, Lillie Langtry, Ben Obo (and brother Jim), Wae George Wood, Yamamoto, Yuno and Little Zola. There are others, too: 586 to be precise, headed by no less a personage than the Earl of Derby.

Together, they make up the Noble 600 — as varied a bunch as you could wish for and the sort of people of whom such stage luminaries of the past as Felix Mendelssohn's Hawain Serenaders and Fred Heare, the Mummy's Dream, could ultimately depend. For these are the original benefactors of Brinsworth House, a unique British institution providing a final curtain-call for retired artists whose careers frequently stretch back beyond even its foundation, in 1910.

Brinsworth, a Victorian pile in Twickenham, is where you can meet 86-year-old Barbara "Red" Stenson, who acted as a stand-in for Marlene Dietrich in *Knight Without Armour* opposite Robert Donat and, as a one-time Tiller Girl, could kick her legs higher than any girl in England. It is also home to fellow octogenarian Dennis Hedges, the musical director of the Windmill Theatre for 24 years — the man who gave Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe and Tony Hancock their start in showbusiness.

Next door to Dennis, reading a thriller by Alistair MacLean, sits the great Ben Warriss, a recent arrival after his collapse during rehearsals for pantomime in Shrewsbury.

Older than any of them and eyeing her walking frame wistfully, as though more used to other props, is the reigning Queen of

Brinsworth, Winnie Whitnee, who can remember sharing digs with Marie Lloyd and, after all these years, is still indignant that so much entertainment comes out of "machines". Winnie is 101.

Presiding over this unapologetic celebration of music hall is Peter Elliott, the home's general secretary, who left school at 14 to sing in *Rose Marie* and acted as a stooge for the late Dick Emery for 15 years before taking over as his manager. Mr Elliott's office is full to the gunwales with photographs of the Queen Mother and showbiz stars like Roy Hudd and Frankie Vaughan. He is bearded and blazered and talks cheerfully of his charges as though he were their agent, not the warden. He cares deeply about preserving the dignity of retired performers and would probably like to assemble them all in a gigantic geriatric command performance. Well, they all would.

He believes that Mrs Worthington got it right in the first place (no one in Brinsworth regrets a thing), but acknowledges that life on the stage was all too often "hard, bloody graft". For years, he says, artists' who hadn't made it as stars were treated very badly by management.

In old age, the difficulties could become acute, and it was to alleviate the worst injustices that the Variety Artists Federation was set up in 1908, under the patronage of established stars, like Dan Leno. Four years later, Brinsworth House came on the market, for the asking price of £1,400, and was purchased outright and given its present role.

Funding is the responsibility today of the Entertainment Artists' Benevolent Fund, aided by the Grand Order of Water Rats, the showbusiness charity, and star-billing, literally, remains a



Memories: retired actor Dennis Castle plays a hand of cards at Brinsworth House; behind him, signed photographs of stars of the British stage and music hall

vital component of revenue. Brinsworth houses just 34 residents — though several more have firm bookings — but is the administrative centre for a network that supports some 300 other beneficiaries, most of them living with relatives or in their own homes. It is 15 years before taking over as his manager.

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band, my two sisters — we were all there in the business. Real theatre people. Singing and dancing. Whatever they needed, we could do it."

And Marie Lloyd? "Oh yes, we were often on the bill with her. My husband and I stayed in the same house in Southampton. She had the front, we had the back."

Barbara Stenson's career is a splendid thing, incorporating cabaret, the Tiller Girls, Vera Lynn, West End musicals and cancan dancing in Paris. As a tap dancer, she performed on a huge top hat dressed in a fluorescent costume so bright it may have led to her glaucoma. Barbara — "Barbie" — shows off her photographs with pride, and without doubt she was

both beautiful and lithe. Reminded of this fact, she smiles brightly and there is a definite twinkle in her eyes. "Yes," she says, "I was a smash."

There is an irony in the present position of Ben Warriss. Three times King Rat and a long-time beneficiary of Brinsworth, he has a room named after him just along the corridor. Now he sits sucking his teeth and reflecting on his partnership with Jimmy Jewel. Had he made much money? Life surges through the frail figure like an electric current. "Lots," he enthuses. "A hell of a lot. I went round the world three times. And now? I've bed sore on my back and ulcers in my mouth and I've a bad cold and I'm not feeling very bright. But Jimmy's coming on Friday and we might go out to

lunch or maybe the West End."

He pauses. "Switch that light on, would you? The sudden brilliance illuminates little piles of freshly-laundred clothing, not put away yet. He looks up. "Here is absolutely marvellous. They're very kind and they pamper your every whim. I don't know another place in the country that would look after old pros like they do."

Another pause. The room is very quiet. "You know, showbusiness is a very rare thing. It's not like any other job. You reminisce a lot. You reach a certain age when you've nothing to look forward to but memories."

Next door is Dennis Hedges. He lost his wife, Violet, three years ago and, frankly, wishes he had died first. He is a trim, moustached figure, wearing a blue

blazer, grey slacks and one of his 46 shirts. Before he moved in to Brinsworth, he gave away his "beautiful" grand piano to a neighbour and got rid of his old 78s from the garage. He has four radios in his room.

With its wall-to-wall photographs, its theatre posters, its staff like kindly usherettes and its blizzard of Zimmer frames and sticks, Brinsworth House is benevolence at its best and a triumph of the human spirit. Frank Verdini, an 83-year-old magician from Prague, embodies the defiance. He wears his memories with pride. When he finally retired seven years ago, he realised he had nowhere to go and turned up at Brinsworth. His message was a bold one. "I tell them I am Verdini. I have come." And he had.

People may be dying because sex education has been neglected — yet too much openness can cause problems for parents

## Forced to face the facts of life

Sex in the 1990s unprotected sex carries with it the added lethal risk of HIV and Aids. Of all those so far identified as HIV positive, 20 per cent are aged 15-25. Of the total number of women with Aids, 40 per cent are aged 15-29. Most of these women must therefore have been

infected with the HIV virus in their teens.

Every recent report which has published data on the unsafe sexual behaviour of young people (which shows no sign of changing despite mass advertising campaigns) has highlighted the need for better sex education. The

former Chief Medical Officer stated in his annual report for 1990 that there is "an urgent need to improve sex education for young people".

The Commons Health Committee report on Maternal and Child Health Services, published last November, said: "Health and sex education in schools may not be accorded the priority they require." The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists made 11 recommendations on sex education in its report on unplanned pregnancy.

Teenagers are, as ever, making the best of it. The number of girls under 16 attending a family planning clinic for the first time has doubled in the past ten years to 18,000.

A pill or condom is no substitute for knowledge about how to handle sexual relationships, but when 83 per cent of young people claim to have experienced sexual intercourse by the time they are 19 it is better than no protection at all.

It is not as if sex education is unpopular. Research shows that 99 per cent of parents and 95 per cent of their

children want it in their schools. As one girl who felt her education left her unprepared to deal with the world of adult sexuality put it: "You didn't really learn anything about relationships at all. It was more about how sperms swim up than anything that would be useful to you."

Another said: "Teaching the biological way makes you think that it is something that is happening somewhere else. It wouldn't really happen to you." A third complained: "Masturbation, they never mention it, the same as homosexuality or orgasms, they never mention that."

Sex education is the responsibility of each school's governing body, but more than a quarter have no policy on it despite being legally required to formulate one and present it to parents annually. In an open letter to William Waldegrave and Kenneth Clarke, the secretaries for health and education, Margaret Jay, the director of the National Aids Trust, and Doreen Massey, the director of the Family Planning Association, call for a joint commission to be set up to develop sex education.

The health and education departments have got to get their heads together and look at this on a national and local level," said Ms Jay. "The time for buck-passing must stop."

It is one thing to tell them about the birds and the bees but quite another to supply the goodies.

JEREMY LAURANCE

## To buy or not to buy

I asked mum to get me a pack of six



feeding one meal too far?

One father thought so. "Condoms are available in every parents' toilet. If a bloke wants to have sex and he can't get his own condom, he's a fool."

I contemplated the logistics with horror. A confession as a former Sixties pill popper with 25 years of monogamy, I have never contributed to the profits of the London Rubber Company.

Which brand would be appropriate? I had heard of a bewildering array of varieties. One friendly pharmacist helped allay my fears: "Isn't this taking spoon-

"They always go for the cheapest."

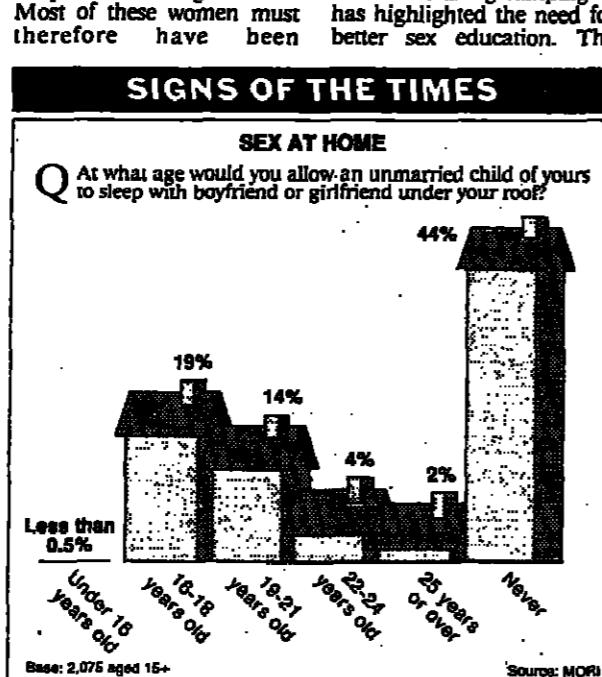
But buying them is the easy bit. How to hand them over? What would this unusual contribution go down, coming from someone they perceive as past her sexual sell-by date? Would it impose a pressure to perform or appear to afford a licence for rampant promiscuity?

In our day, to use a creaking parentism, the issue was whether or not to put your daughter on the pill. Many of the arguments were similar. But all you needed to know when taking the pill was that you had to be conscientious about swallowing it. No one had to teach you to swallow.

The truth is that skill in using a condom matters. Few teenagers — or adults — I spoke to knew how easily a condom could tear on a fingernail or ring. Fewer still, that using a hand cream or oil with one could cause it to dissolve in as little as 90 seconds.

"Supplying condoms is OK if it reflects a willingness to talk about relationships," says Alison Hadley of the Brook Advisory Centre. "Condoms in a vacuum are not much good." Must run. I have some shopping to do.

ADRIENNE KATZ



Pregnancies and abortions are the result of unprotected

# Hemmed in by fashion



From left: over-the-knee Chanel suit for the young; short and safe, for the Chanel customer of any age; the new skinny, unbuttoned, long skirt, Sportmax.



Short skirts are for middle-aged women," Karl Lagerfeld announced last week when he paraded Chanel's latest *haute couture* collection. Every hemline covered the knee, albeit some of them finishing in a zigzag of handkerchief points. The front-row line-up of short-skirted couture clients at his show — undisputedly *d'un certain âge* — watched unperturbed. They knew Monsieur Paquito, the *premier* in M Lagerfeld's tailoring atelier, would whip up a nice short skirt for them instead. With legs still in good shape, why should they cover them up? Or would they be forced to wear long simply because short has been declared old hat?

You might have thought that by now the age-old phobia about hemlines would have lost its terror for fashion followers. There are more important yardsticks of good style than the length of one's skirt. But here we are, rational women of the 1990s, failing for one of fashion's sillier snubs. For some reason, there has to be a "correct" position for

## Does short in the skirt mean long in the tooth? Liz Smith says we should not care

hemlines, and anyone who attends the Paris shows is still quizzed by friends who should know better.

This season the hubbub on hemlines is louder. Short skirts have been the uniform for the past few years to sophisticated women anxious to avoid dowdiness. Far from wanting to look provocative, women hitch up their hemlines today because wearing a short skirt makes them feel sassy and young. The result? As always, once the short skirt became the status quo, fashion's reactionaries moved off into long. Or they dispensed with skirts altogether and took up the Principal Boy look of tunic and leggings.

M Lagerfeld enjoys a tease. Even he realised he was testing the fashion waters last week. Victor Edelekin, who dresses the Princess of Wales, showed a few long skirts in

his recent spring collection, and Giorgio Armani, one of the designers who made trousers chic for women in the past two decades, knows that whatever length designers show, smart women stick to just above the knee. "Fashion is not about long and short. Anybody worried about lengths is old-fashioned," he said after his spring ready-to-wear show last October.

And that is the problem for fashion followers. The self-confident will flirt with every length, enjoying the new sensation of wearing a long slinky skirt, while ensuring it is slashed or unbuttoned to be able to suggest a leggy line. Hopefully nobody will adopt M Lagerfeld's solution of dropping a long skirt in sheer chiffon over every short one.

It takes a little while for the eye to adjust to every new trend, but it

appears that the long skirt is making a comeback. The prettiest are slim wrap-over styles and sarongs to mid-calf. Others button through, ready to be unbuttoned to whatever level one wants.

Cynics who think that the hemline debate is regularly hyped by retailers keen to get reluctant shoppers spending again are right. Stores thrive on women's insecurities, and right now they are confused.

Vanessa de Lisle, a former *Vogue* fashion editor and now consultant to Harrods, is certainly going to wear the new length. "Right now, it is the daughters rather than the mothers who are trying it. In the end everyone will follow. You have to avoid looking like a Sloane mum — it must be carried off with platform shoes and a small handbag."

Françoise Tessier of Browns, the chain of chic boutiques in London, believes the new season's long skirts will be bought by her more adventurous customers. "There are a lot of British women who prefer long skirts who will be pleased to see them back in vogue," she says.

Givenchy spring ready-to-wear

Photographs: Christopher Moore

## The golden rule

A little jewellery goes a long way for most men these days, finds David Toop

One area of male behaviour remains rigorously restrained: the wearing of jewellery. Despite advances in self-expression, not to mention Native American drum technique, men and their jewelery still enjoy a relationship which rarely escapes ambivalence. At their worst, men can accessorise themselves into catastrophic zones of bad taste.

Periods of recession are our equivalent of ancient divination practices. We follow the tribulations of Stringfellows or the financial woes of Gerald Ratner and conclude that flash Harry, the discombobulated Medallion Man bedecked with bracelets, chains, diamond-encrusted watches and rings, has vanished into the style archives.

Have we written off the Barry White and Liberace look too soon? At Arena magazine, the editor, Dylan Jones, thinks not. He restricts himself to a little gold hardware.



Mark LeBon and his elaborate ring. Being married has forced him to wear jewellery as much as possible. The wise guy styling of Martin Scorsese's film *GoodFellas* briefly opened up jewellery opportunities for fashion-conscious men in their twenties and early thirties, he believes. "There was definitely a trend for it around a year ago," says Mr Jones. "although the trend seems to be moving away from that now."

Aside from fashion models who are paid to look ridiculous, the only men who can carry off a look which depends upon a metal detector frenzy of gold curb chains, ID bracelets, pendants, diamond clusters and sovereign rings, are tough types who carry guns in their pockets. For Mr Jones the only sane and decent possibility is a good watch. He recommends a Tag-Heuer or an antique Rolex for the *Arena* man.

"As with a lot of things at the moment," he adds, "people are into investment dressing, whether it's a pair of trousers, a jacket or a piece of jewellery — things that are actually going to last for more than six months."

Despite his reputation as a flamboyant dresser, Hamish Bowles, style director of *Harper's & Queen*, limits his jewels to a tie-pin and cufflinks. "They're always exaggerated and exuberant," he protests, "but I think I've gone through the phase of wearing less definitely prescribed masculine jewellery."

Solange Azagury-Partridge is a fashionable jewellery designer. She supplies cuff-links and rings to men whose occupations range from solicitors to pop singers, often using materials such as uncut diamonds in a self-confessed spirit of inverted snobbery. She enjoys the idea of precious stones, yet uses them in rough hunks that are not

## Stamp of approval

The Royal Mail has made a brave choice for the Queen's anniversary

WHEN Andy Altmann, David Ellis and Howard Greenhalgh graduated from the Royal College of Art four years ago, they set up a graphic design company called Why Not Associates. The name reflects their determination to follow the philosophy that designers just wanna have fun.

Their designs, which are colourful, jokey and typographically anarchic, are as nonconformist as their attitude and they have been regarded with a degree of suspicion by many of their peers. But not, it seems, by their clients, which include mainstream names like Next, Hull City Council, Smirnoff, and now the Royal Mail.

To be asked to design a stamp is prestigious in itself but, more gallingly still for their detractors, Why Not Associates have landed the plum job of designing the set of stamps to be issued this Thursday to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

"We are a very unlikely choice to be doing these," says Andy Altmann, "and I think it's very courageous of the Royal Mail to have chosen us." Courageous, yes, but not rash. At least three designers or illustrators will have been asked to present ideas to a committee and once past this stage the stamp has to get royal approval. "This is not merely a formal gesture," according to the Royal Mail, "... [the Queen] takes a personal interest."

There are five stamps in the new set, each featuring a photograph of the Queen taken at a different time in her life as monarch, each expressing a different role as head of State, the Commonwealth, the Royal Family, the Armed Forces and the Church. The first features a

## TOMORROW

"My little girl only plays with My Little Pony and Barbie — is she going to be a bimbo?"

Victoria McKee discovers what toys can do for children, on the Parents page on Tuesday



Without her granddaughter Rai couldn't survive

Rai's been blind for 6 years

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Like many thousands of elderly people overseas, Rai Kamvar is blinded by cataracts. It's a terrible affliction. But for Rai, the tragedy is she has never seen her 6-year-old granddaughter, Seema.

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JANE LAMACRAFT

# Threats to Soviet science

As Russia's best brains head West, Nigel Hawkes discovers efforts to preserve the Soviet tradition

**S**cientists are likely to leave the former Soviet Union in an exodus unequalled since the Nazis sent talented Jewish scientists flocking westwards. Soviet science, once seen as the foundation stone of the nation's future, now seems to face a future as dim as the nation itself. There are believed to be 1.5 million scientists in the nations of the Soviet Union, a quarter of the world's scientific manpower.

Terry Garrett, of the Royal Society's assistant secretary for international affairs, says: "The scientists are facing critical problems. The whole structure is in danger of collapse."

Israel has already welcomed many emigrant Soviet scientists and doctors. Israel's scientific community originally numbered no more than 16,000 researchers, but since controls were eased two years ago at least 4,000 scientists with doctorates, 20,000 engineers and 6,000 doctors have arrived from the Soviet Union. One of the Soviet Union's strengths was mathematics, so Israel is now flooded with fine mathematicians. At the Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology, a quarter of all undergraduate and post-graduate mathematics students are Soviet immigrants.

The French mathematician Jacques-Louis Lions recently told the Technion faculty that the best work on convection stability was done in the Soviet Union by an unknown mathematician, whose latest book was a masterpiece, but he had been unable to contact the author, who was somewhere in the Soviet Union. There was a stir in the audience and a tall young man was pushed forward. "I am that man," he said. It was Alexander Nepomnyashchy, who had emigrated to Israel.

Most Soviet scientists are unlikely to be as lucky. Those with the strongest hand are defence scientists, who have marketable skills, so long as they are willing to go to would-be nuclear powers in

the Third World. Not only their skills are marketable. A British nuclear specialist reports that he has been called by two Russian scientists asking where they might sell large quantities of lithium-6, an isotope used in thermonuclear weapons.

Augusto Forti, the director-general of the European Institute for East-West Cooperation in Venice, says Third World countries have offered nuclear scientists three-year contracts at salaries up to \$400,000 a year, to be paid into Swiss banks, if they will sell their know-how.

Last week the German magazine *Stern* said Libyan agents had telephoned the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow offering \$100,000 salaries to two scientists to work on an unspecified project in the desert. The two rejected the offer and told the institute. The Soviet nuclear scientists may be exaggerating the threat to improve their chances. Already the German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, has proposed an international fund to finance a weapons programme for weapons scientists from the former Soviet Union.

President Bush is said to be willing to offer jobs to 2,000 of them, to destroy Soviet nuclear weapons and work in civilian research, the *Los Angeles Times* reported, quoting administration sources. Congress has already set aside \$500 million for this purpose.

In civilian science, thousands of layoffs appear inevitable. Boris Salykov, the Russian science minister, told *Nature* he expects between 20 and 30 per cent of academic scientists to lose their jobs by the end of 1993. The government cannot finance research on the old scale.

Academic salaries have become a joke. Laboratory directors earn 1,000 rubles a month, about £3. Subscriptions to overseas journals, payable only in hard currency, have been cancelled. Russia's own journals are now folding because of rising



One of the glories of the boom years: an artist's impression of the Soviet space station on the Moon in 1970

costs. Mr Garrett believes agriculture and medicine research institutes will suffer most, as the ministries that supported them have been abolished.

The finest laboratories, with the best scientists, are those attached to the Academy of Sciences. The old academy was dissolved in December and has been replaced by a Russian academy, which seems likely to become a battleground for warring interests. The younger, more radical scientists want to overthrow the traditional

authoritarian structure, dominated by the academy and the all-powerful institute directors.

Western academics believe

the best help they can offer is to try to keep the most productive Russian scientists working in their own country. The temptation to offer faculty positions to the most talented is easily resisted, as there are few vacancies in Western universities.

Mr Garrett says the best way of helping the new Commonwealth of Independent States is to offer short-

term fellowships in the West, which will enable senior people to keep up with their science and also earn hard currency to take home.

Victor Sergeev, the deputy director of the analytical centre of the Academy of Sciences, is spending three months at Leeds University's politics department on such a fellowship. He says that if a scientist can save \$10,000, "that is as much as the budget for a whole institute".

He fears that the elite are being spoilt by the opportunities, causing bad feelings

among lower-level workers, who lack those chances. Some academy institutes in Novosibirsk in Siberia, have resolved that researchers spending three months abroad may lose their jobs. "A more efficient way to encourage mediocrities could scarcely be devised," *Nature* comments.

The most imaginative idea has come from President Mitterrand, who suggests a foundation in Russia, supported by Western money, that would give grants to scientists.

## Flood watch in the lab

A NEW national centre for modelling the impact of waves and tides on Britain's coastline is to be built by the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC). Nigel Hawkes writes.

The sea will be modelled in a huge tank more than 150ft long and 90ft wide at Hydraulics Research, of Wallingford, Oxfordshire. The tank will be able to simulate waves, tides, and currents and measure their effects on real beaches made from sand.

The new Coastal Research Facility is the centrepiece of a £4 million, five-year programme of coastal research

that was begun last week by the SERC.

As well as modelling the impact of storms on coastal defences, the tank can be used for studying the movements of sand and the pollution of estuaries, bathing beaches and shellfisheries.

Britain has not suffered serious coastal flooding since 1953, but there is evidence that the dangers that this will happen again may be rising.

In addition to the possibility that global warming may raise the level of the sea, studies have shown that along the east coast storm activity has been at a lower level during the past 50 years

than it was during the 19th century. Dr Chris Fleming, the chairman of the committee that recommended the research, says a return to earlier patterns, combined with geological shifts that are tilting Britain, could produce east coast floods on the scale of the 1953 disasters.

The Wallingford tank, which models the action of the sea on a scale of 20 to one, will provide the information for improving computer models of sea behaviour.

Dr Stephen Huntingdon, a senior researcher with Hydraulics Research, says there is no similar centre anywhere else in the world.

## Vitamin lifesaver

ONE large vitamin A dose reduced deaths among malnourished children in Nepal by 26 per cent, says a study published in the *British Medical Journal*. Dr Nils Daulaire, an American researcher, reports that treating a child cost about 11p and might save millions of lives worldwide.

### Genetic first

JAPANESE farmers expect soon to get the go-ahead to grow tomatoes genetically engineered to be resistant to tobacco mosaic virus, to which they are normally vulnerable. If approval is given, the tomato will be the first such product to come on to the market in Japan.

tobacco mosaic virus, to which they are normally vulnerable. If approval is given, the tomato will be the first such product to come on to the market in Japan.

### High danger

MERCURY levels in the air over the Atlantic are rising steadily, according to German researchers' findings published in *Nature*. For 15 years the toxic metal's concentrations over the northern Atlantic have risen by 1.46 per cent a year and over the southern Atlantic by 1.17 per cent. The increases match the growth of world energy

consumption, suggesting that most of the mercury comes from burning coal, refining ores and incinerating waste.

### Baby boon

SCIENTISTS at Israel's Weizmann Institute and Tel Aviv Medical Centre have developed a technique for identifying babies likely to be born underweight. A urine test identifies foetuses at risk of intra-uterine growth retardation in the first six weeks after conception, much earlier than existing methods. The condition causes a third of all underweight babies, is thought to affect up to 10 per cent of pregnancies and is strongly linked to childhood problems such as cerebral palsy and learning difficulties. The researchers hope that early diagnosis will help to reduce the frequency of the condition.

## How to...

### Mini-compass

AN ELECTRONIC solid-state compass small enough to fit on a silicon chip has been developed at Polytechnic South West in Plymouth. The compass uses a sensor to detect the interaction between the Earth's magnetic field and the fields created by its own spinning electrons.

The sensor could be used to create a compass to fit on a wristwatch, but it might also be used to detect the movement of a door, with possible security system applications, or to count vehicles and measure their speed.

### Hunt curb

VENEZUELA is now protecting the baba, a small cousin of the alligator, which has been intensively hunted to provide skins for belts, purses and shoes. A quarter of a million were killed in the mid-1980s before the first controls. The maximum harvest is now set at 30,000 a year. Conservationists had warned that the reptiles were in danger of extinction.

# Fly free, stay free, with The Times

WHERE in the world would you like to go on holiday? Europe, Asia, America, Fiji, Brazil, Australia? And would you like to take a partner along - free? Today *The Times* is offering a choice of first-class hotels throughout the world where you can stay with a friend, whose flights and hotel accommodation are free.

All you have to do is get that free place is to collect six differently numbered Fly Free tokens.

The second token is printed below. Throughout the rest of this week, from Tuesday to Saturday, February 8, *The Times* will print a further five tokens. On Saturday we will also print full booking information, together with a price list for each hotel and the insurance details.

Sydney, "that blousy old tart of a town" where Conrad drank and Jan Morris once despaired, has changed in a decade from beer and pie to find a taste for champagne and swank.

What doesn't change though is its brash exuberance, its seductive tropical air, and that greatest asset, its vast natural harbour, perhaps the most spectacular on earth. In Sydney all roads lead back to the waterfront, to views of the famous opera house and harbour bridge. And it is out on the water that Sydney begins to make sense.

The Manly ferry is an easy rival for the 25-cent Staten Island ferry in New York. From Circular Quay it sails

past the bridge and opera house and into waters alive with yachts, freighters and all manner of work boats. The suburbs, like small villages, rise above coves that are just minutes by ferry from the city centre.

Sydney is red roofs, dotted in tropical vegetation and bird life and a saturation of colour that is startling to cold northern eyes.

The ultimate way to view the harbour and the Pacific coastline is a trip in one of Vic Walton's fleet of De Havilland Beaver seaplanes. From Rose Bay, the old Empire flying boat base, they still fly north to Palm Beach and within minutes will touch down at waterside restaurants in the

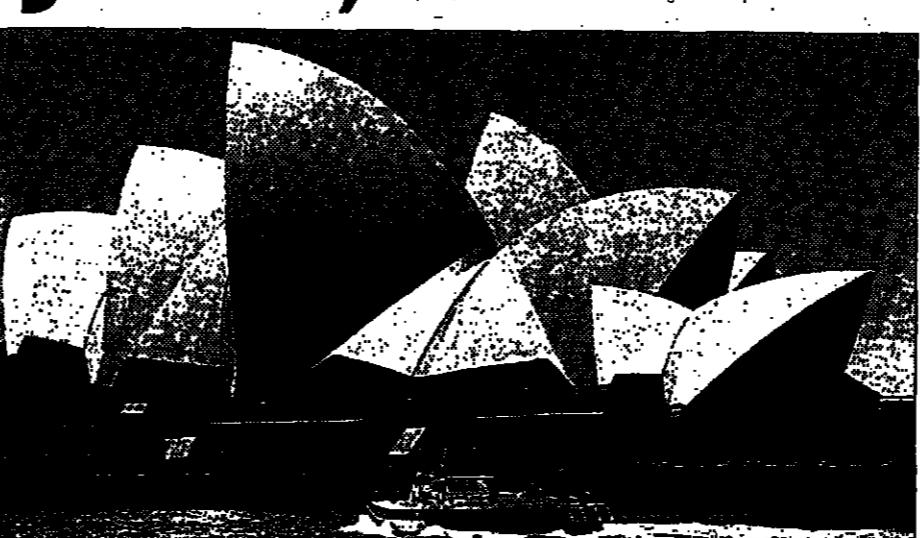
So this token (left) and collect five more differently numbered tokens throughout the week. Taken one was printed last Saturday. You need six tokens to book your holiday for two - with your companion going free. See full details on Saturday, February 8.

Another favourite on-shore pastime for locals and tourists is exploring the historic Rocks area behind Circular Quay, built by convict labour in Britain's penal colony. A convict family past, until very recently a source of real shame, is now flaunted with the pride of a roguish descendant of the Pilgrim Fathers.

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boat base, they still fly north to Palm Beach and within minutes will touch down at waterside restaurants in the



Sydney Opera House: focal point of the city, a must for any visitor

### Take your partner to a top hotel

**HOTELS** taking part in this reader offer. (The figure in brackets denotes minimum number of nights stay.)

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Belgium: Sheraton Brussels Hotel & Towers, and the Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel (2)  
Denmark: Sheraton Copenhagen (2)  
France: Paris: Ambassador, La Fayette, Lutetia (2)  
Germany: Sheraton Frankfurt and Sheraton Munich (2)  
Italy: Sheraton Firenze and Sheraton Roma (3)  
Portugal: Sheraton Lisboa and Sheraton Porto (2)  
Switzerland: Sheraton Eborgh (2)  
Spain: Madrid: Barajas, Hotel Princesa, Madrid, Eurobuilding (3)  
Sweden: Sheraton Stockholm (3)  
Switzerland: Sheraton Atlantic Hotel, Zurich (2)  
The Netherlands: Amsterdam

Ramada Renaissance, Golden Tulip Barbizon and SAS Royal (2)  
Turkey: Sheraton Istanbul (2)  
Egypt: Cairo Sheraton (10)  
Morocco: Sheraton C'blanca (3)  
Tunisia: Sheraton El Hamra (14)  
Israel: Sheraton J'salem Plaza (4)  
China: Sheraton Xian (14)  
Hong Kong: Sheraton Hong Kong, Kowloon (7)  
Indonesia: Shangri-La Dynasty, Grand on Harbor Island, Sheraton Grande on Harbor Island, Sheraton Grande on Harbor Island and Sheraton Grande Torrey Pines, San Francisco, Palace and Bayview Place, London NW1 OET, accompanied by:

• Six differently numbered tokens from *The Times*.  
• A deposit of £100 (Europe) or £160 (worldwide);  
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6 Proof of postage will not be accepted as proof of delivery.  
7 For bookings made between eight and four weeks before departure, full prepayment is required. For bookings made more than eight weeks before departure, send deposit and insurance premium only, the balance to be paid within eight weeks.

8 Once the holiday details have been accepted, no refunds can be made. Failure to pay on time will entail automatic cancellation of your holiday and loss of deposit. Limited amendments may be possible, for which a charge will be made.  
9 The air fares and hotel rates indicated may vary from those indicated and will be confirmed at the time of booking.  
10 All holidays will be booked by the Flexibreaks Travel Service (ABTA number 7791X, ATOL 2286) who will redeem the offer according to the Terms and Conditions printed here. The suppliers' own conditions will also apply.  
11 All holidays are subject to availability. The right is reserved to substitute alternative hotels if necessary. All information is correct at the time of going to press.  
12 Further information will appear each day up to Saturday February 8 in *The Times*. Thereafter for general enquiries call the Flexibreaks Helpline on 071-229 9660. For travel-related enquiries call Flexibreaks Travel Service on 071-387 2380. Mon-Fri, 9.30am-6pm (excluding Bank holidays).  
13 THIS WEEK

ALL THIS WEEK  
Collect more tokens printed in *The Times* each day  
SATURDAY  
Collect your final token to complete your set and read the full booking details



# Harvard comes to Britain

John Ashworth argues a case for the London School of Economics to be sited down by the riverside in County Hall and suggests that some universities will develop along American lines

The public, according to a survey conducted by MORI and published last Thursday, requires universities to provide, above all, good teaching and equal educational opportunities for all their students.

Those who have children of student age and would be prepared to contribute to their tuition costs — a surprisingly high 39 per cent — also most value good teaching, but then place vocational relevance and a good academic reputation before equal opportunities as things they value.

Not surprisingly, then, the higher education agenda for the late 1980s was dominated by the need to increase the participation rate; to persuade the universities to take their teaching and research responsibilities more seriously and to make their curricula more "relevant".

That agenda is now common ground between the universities, polytechnics and political parties. The only real debate is about the rate at which it will be achieved and the cost. But what about the 1990s? Will this agenda continue to be sufficient? I doubt it.

The decision of the government to contribute to the costs of teaching additional students but not to give the universities the matching resources for research has made a stratified system of institutions inevitable. This may not be as rigid as implied by the R (for research), T (teaching) and X (for part teaching, part research) divisions recommended in the Advisory Board for the Research Council's 1985 report but it will tend towards that pattern.

We all know what T institutions

look like — much like the present polytechnics — and all our present universities (with the possible exception of Oxbridge) are indubitably X's. But what will an R university look like? How will it be funded, and managed? These seem to me the questions that will be exercising us in the 1990s, and Oxbridge is not a conceivable answer, at least to me, to any of those questions.

There seem to me to be two possible models of what an R university in Britain could be like. The first is the French *grande école*, the second the American graduate school.

The *grandes écoles* are small, elite, vocationally orientated institutions whose teachers are predominantly practitioners rather than researchers. Such institutions would sit uncomfortably within the large multi-faculty British universities — although many British business schools reflect this structure.

The more likely model will, I think, be the graduate schools familiar to British academics from their visits to Harvard, Stanford or MIT. The London School of Economics is already close to this pattern with 40 per cent of its students doing postgraduate degrees of one kind or another (compare Harvard's 60 per cent) and its concentration on research-led teaching. Imperial College and University College are similar in their areas of specialisation.

Whether or not that version of a graduate school comes about will depend on the view the University of London takes of its future and on the way that higher education develops in London.

I think it is reasonably certain,

that individual institutions (LSE, UCL and Imperial) certainly but maybe others, too, will be seeking to increase their proportion of postgraduate level activity. The provost of UCL has publicly stated that it is UCL's policy to create a graduate school

and my own colleagues have argued that any expansion at the LSE should occur preferentially at the postgraduate level.

The LSE's future is going to be determined in the short term by whether or not we are successful in the bid we have made for County

Hall. The school's premises in Houghton Street are cramped, crowded and desperately in need of refurbishment. County Hall has been lying unoccupied for years and needs to find a use that would do justice to its position and "presence". What more logical

than that the two needs should be satisfied simultaneously?

But it is not only logic that has led us to become increasingly keen on such a prospect. The LSE's needs for space for educational and research purposes are a surprisingly "good fit" with the riverside building at County Hall. For example, the high ratio of circulation space to usable space, which makes conversion of the riverside building to office use so unattractive commercially, is just what is needed to cope with hundreds of students charging about and the island site could have been tailor made for our library.

Perhaps it is not so surprising that, as a public institution, we find that we fit into a public building so well. But it does mean that we would be able to occupy the building without any extensive modifications, indeed, at the moment a complete refurbishment looks as if it would be sufficient.

But the aspect of the proposal which I find most exciting concerns what we might do with the space in the riverside building that

we did not need for educational and scholarly purposes and with the north and south office blocks.

We plan to use these spaces for what, by analogy with the science and technology parks that have been created around our provincial universities, I have termed a "social science park". Here symbiotic commercial activities, "spin-off" companies, consultancy and other activities based on "adding value" to the skills and knowledge which the LSE and its staff possess could be expected to flourish and develop in ways which we cannot predict. What can be predicted, with some confidence, is that the LSE would, through its "park", be intimately concerned with the development of the commercial and other aspects of London as it fights to retain in the next century the pre-eminence that it now has in financial and other activities.

That, too, I would regard as a vital aspect of any R institution that, like the LSE, is based on the social sciences.

John Ashworth is the director of the London School of Economics.



A mission to move: John Ashworth believes the London School of Economics, with its growing need for space, would be ideally situated in the former County Hall



Space to grow: the magnificent frontage of County Hall on the Thames

## How to teach reading

A study of reading skills backs Clarke's three wise men



Helping hand: teaching at Norbury Manor Primary School

A working party set up by Croydon, one of the boroughs at the heart of the reading controversy, has come to much the same conclusions as education secretary Kenneth Clarke's "three wise men".

An earlier study by a group of education psychologists on 347,000 seven-year-olds in nine local education authorities, including Croydon, in south London, showed that reading standards had fallen drastically.

Determined to find the true picture in its schools, Croydon set up a small reading working group and commissioned a survey from the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER).

Using a standard comprehension test (100 equals average performance), the score fell from 98.7 in 1987-88 to 96.9 in 1989-90. In accuracy, the figure fell from 98.8 to 97.1. National figures show an overall drop of 2.5 per cent in the same period.

The Croydon report says that there should be more organised group work and whole class teaching in some schools. It says that it should be possible to ensure that all children can read to average ability by the time they are seven.

Paul Benjamins, Croydon's director of education, added: "There were some classes where there were groups of children sitting round tables, with some reading and writing, others doing maths design and science. In some cases individual children at the same table were doing different things."

The main factors in teaching children to read successfully, the report says, are parental involvement, motivated pupils, a well-managed school, clear curriculum and assessment policies, and high expectations of all pupils, regardless of their ability or background.

The NFER survey shows

that 27 per cent of the children interviewed said that they had been taught to read by their parents. Very few, however, said that they had been taught to write at home. Mr Benjamins says that it was important to link reading and writing and to incorporate them both in other lessons, such as design, technology and science.

Teacher assessment of children at five will be introduced to identify those children who will not reach the average ability in national curriculum reading tests by the time they are seven. "This must alert schools to the need to provide a programme of more intensive support for these pupils, which continues to involve home as well as school and could entail extra tuition," the report says.

"Where early diagnosis reveals pupils with specific learning difficulties, class teachers should have training

Reading comprehension Accuracy

1984-5	99.0	99.7
1985-6	98.1	99.5
1986-7	95.2	98.4
1987-8	98.7	98.8
1988-9	97.4	97.7
1989-90	96.9	97.1

shown that many pupils reach the average reading ability for their age within 12 to 14 weeks. Brian Howes, the chief education inspector, said that Croydon would hope to begin work on a similar programme for its schools in April.

Diane Pounder, the head of the 345 pupil Norbury Manor Primary School, was chosen by her fellow heads to cooperate with the working party. She said: "The report is good common sense which many of us have wanted to say for a very long time.

Mrs Pounder is not con-

vinced, however, that there should be a widespread return to whole class teaching. She says: "The appropriate grouping depends on what and who you are teaching. Whole class teaching is sometimes used if we are introducing something that is new or relevant to the whole class or a lesson such as music and physical education. But it would, for example, be impractical if children were doing an experiment."

Extra help is to be provided for teachers and children and it may be necessary to open reading centres in the holidays. The working group also came to the conclusion that children receive considerable benefit from nursery education. In Croydon in 1989 there were only 600 nursery places for three to four-year-olds. The figure has now risen to 1,200 and further expansion is planned.

Croydon is not one of the 28 authorities chosen to take part in the reading recovery scheme which, at a cost of £10 million is expected to help about 15,000 six-year-olds to read over three years. Under the scheme, children will be taken out of the classroom and given daily half-hour reading lessons.

The maximum course is for

20 weeks but experience has

been supporting these pupils throughout the curriculum. If necessary, additional support out of school hours should be arranged."

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The maximum course is for

20 weeks but experience has

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Closing date Monday, 17 February 1992.

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Further details about the position may be obtained by writing to the Registrar, Mr. A.L. Prichard, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria 3168, Australia, fax (61 3) 565 2016, or Appointments (40341), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, UK.

Applications should reach the Vice-Chancellor not later than Friday 27 March 1992. Council reserves the right to make no appointment or to appoint by invitation at any stage.

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Further particulars may be obtained from Professor B.A. Hepple, Dean of the Faculty of Laws, University College London, Bentham House, Endleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0EG, to whom applications, including a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to reach him by 28 February 1992. Equal Opportunities Employer.

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Particulars from the Principal's Secretary, Somerville College, Oxford OX2 6HD. Closing date for applications: 2nd March 1992.

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For application form and further particulars (Ref 16/92) contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, G1 1XQ.

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## BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax (66512) 6.30 Breakfast News (70158491)  
 9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk hosts a studio discussion (4518282)  
 9.50 Hot Chilli. Bistro-style food (5016405)  
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (5373319) 10.00 Playdays (r) (1058241) 10.25 Pingu (r) (5376405) 10.35 No Kidding. Mike Smith hosts the family quiz (s) (5846777)  
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (7442512) 11.05 Rosemary Conley advises on diet and exercise (7733551) 11.30 People Today celebrates the Queen's fortieth anniversary as monarch, and the Chinese new year (1228)  
 12.00 News, regional news and weather (2005425) 12.20 Pebble Mill (s) (3325512) 12.55 Regional news and weather (50422154)  
 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (12628)  
 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (6054425)  
 1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly hosts the European quiz (60548241)  
 2.15 Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters. Eamonn Holmes introduces live coverage of the match between Gary Wilkinson and Alain Robidoux and highlights of the preliminary round match between Tony Jones and Ken Doherty (7087135)  
 3.00 Holiday. Annette Rice provides the clues for this year's Radio Times/Holiday competition (6652951)  
 3.25 Bazaar with Nerys Hughes (6681086)  
 3.50 Children's BBC: Bananarama (r) (6194135) 3.55 Radio Roc. Fifth of a 13-part comedy drama (s) (200628) 4.10 The Stanley Stories: Flat Stanley. David Healy reads the first of three stories by Jeff Brown for Jackanory (7223357) 4.25 Fantastic Max (r) (5394203)  
 4.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles. (Ceefax) (2703383) 5.00 Newsround (5103864) 5.05 Blue Peter. (Ceefax) (s) (5816528)  
 5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (228251) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Morna Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (96)  
 6.30 Regional news magazines (48). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r). (Ceefax)  
 7.00 Women. In the last of Terry Wogan's political debates for election year, Conservative party spokesman answers questions put by the audience. The panel includes MPs Michael Heseltine (environment), Tom King (defence), Angela Rumbold (home affairs) and William Waldegrave (health) (s) (9861)



Watch out: Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton (7.30pm)

7.30 Watchdog. John Stapleton investigates the Family Health Service Authority which deals with complaints against GPs (32)

8.00 May to December. Langdon romantic comedy starring Anton Rodgers and Lesley Dunlop (r). (Ceefax) (4609)

8.30 Weather on One: When the Fish Come Out

© CHOICE: Say this word quickly and it sounds like "hobgoblin" but the fish in this stirring film by wildlife specialist Mark Dibley and Victoria Stone are indeed hobgoblins. They are indeed the most vicious and mean of their life-clues. But once a year they gather in their millions, and this is no exaggeration, to swim up remote rivers to spawn. As they do so they become a tasty meal for man, too, takes his cut. The fearless Dibley and Stone report on this slaughter from uninhabited waters around Alaska, with huge and hungry whales seemingly poised to gobble them up. Happily the awesome mammals skip Dibley and Stone and go for the eulachon instead, consuming up to a ton of fish a day. It is a film to make you glad of the comfort of your living room. (Ceefax) (s) (5115)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (1765)

9.30 Panorama: The Thin Man. Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, may hold the balance of power in the event of a hung parliament after the general election. Gavin Hewitt considers what the Liberal and his party stand for (759222)

10.10 Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters. Eamonn Holmes introduces the second-round match between former masters Jimmy White and Doug Mountjoy (418785)

11.10 Gardens by Design with David Stevens (r). (Ceefax) (574599)

11.40 Advice Shop investigates house fires (s) (314338)

12.00 Weather (784346) 12.30am Close (227638)

2.00 The Way Ahead. Third of 12 programmes on April's new benefits for disabled people (3200565). Ends at 2.15

## ITV VARIATIONS

4.30 The HR Man and Her (6766839) 5.15-6.30 Jobfinder

**HIT WEST**  
 As London except: 2.30pm Graham Kerr (6567408) 5.25-7.00 Angie News (21891) 10.40-11.10 Relationships (760607)

**CENTRAL**  
 As London except: 2.20pm Graham Kerr (1059474) 2.45 The Doctor - Douglas Diggle (214574) 2.50-3.15 The Young Doctor (4399883) 3.25-3.55 Families (5657408) 5.10-5.40 Generation (6202351) 6.00-6.30 Relationships (760607) 10.40 TV Times (Ceefax) (3103261) 1.00am The Band (Ceefax) (4609)

**HIT WALES**  
 As HTV except: 6.00pm Wales at Six (5307-20) PrimeTime 10.40-11.00 Caruso - A Tenor's Tribute

**TSW**  
 As London except: 2.20pm Wild World of the East (2495338) 2.50-3.15 Young Doctor (4399883) 2.55-3.05 Home and Away (6668145) 5.10-5.40 Families (5657408) 6.00-6.30 Relationships (760607) 10.40 TV Times (Ceefax) (3103261) 1.00am The Band (Ceefax) (4609)

**GRANADA**  
 As London except: 1.50pm-6.15 Film: The Pillars of the Earth (7510058) 5.25-5.55 Families (5657408) 6.10-6.40 Animal Country (5657408) 6.30-7.30 Granada Tonight (19) (6202351) 10.40 TV Times (Ceefax) (3103261) 1.00am The Band (Ceefax) (4609)

**ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS** (5010759) 12.35 Superstars of Wrestling (6865907) 1.35 Film: Margaret Bourke-White (French) (5010759) 2.00-2.30 News from America's Top Ten (3001549) 3.30 About Britain (Ceefax)

**TV**  
 As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Coast to Coast (Ceefax) (3103261) 1.00am The Band (Ceefax) (4609)

## RADIO 3

6.55am Weather; News Headlines  
 7.00 Morning Concert: Haydn (Symphony No 82 in C, The Queen's Birthday) (s) (314338)  
 7.30 News  
 7.35 Morning Concert cont: Mendelssohn (Overture, Ruy Blas, Op 55); Schumann (Adagio, Allegro, Op 70); Brahms (Bunting, Op 70); Andante (C: G); Gregor Holberg Suite, Op 40)  
 8.30 News  
 8.35 Composers of the Week: Schubert (Overture, Don Giovanni and The Magic Flute); Haydn, with Roger Goodman; Beethoven (L'Amour des Femmes); Brahms (F minor, Op 64); Murray Perahia, Rudolf Lupi, piano; Symphony No 1 in D, D 82; Dresden State Orchestra under Wolfgang Sawallisch  
 9.35 Morning Sequence: Saint-Saëns: Tancer Lise (Dance Macabre); Leslie Howard, piano; Brahms (L'Amour des Femmes); Haydn, in D, C 20 No 4; Brahms String Quartet; Spohr (Clarinet Concerto No 1 in C minor, Op 26; Stuttgart RSO under Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra); Andante (L'Amour des Femmes); Brahms (String Quartet No 6; Brindisi String Quartet); Smetana (Vltava, Ma Vlast; BBC Concert Orchestra under Lucas Foss)  
 11.25 BBC Philharmonic under Jacques van Steen with Edith Penneymann, violin plays Reger (Violin Concerto Prologue to a Tragedy) (r)  
 1.05 BBC Lunchtime Concert: Anne Sofie von Otter, mezzo, and Helmuth Deutsch, piano, perform Grieg (Haugtussa, Op 67); Maher (Es sungen drei Engel: Das irische Leben; Ich ging mit Lust; Rheinlegenden; Lob des hohen Verstands), live from St John's, Smith Square, London  
 2.00 Third Opinion (r)  
 2.45 BBC Welsh SO under Nicholas Cleobury, plays Stravinsky (Monumentum pro Gesualdo of Venecia; Jeu de cartes); and Markevitch (Suite, Rebus) (r)  
 3.45 Piano and Piano: James Davies and John Lancham piano, May Poulenec (Sonatas); Martin Ballade (Ballade);

COMPILED BY GILLIAN MAKEY AND CAROLINE DONALD  
 TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

## BBC 2

8.00 Breakfast News (2005609) 8.15 Westminster (2889332)  
 8.30 Antiques at Home. Michael Newman visits a period 1930s cliff-top bungalow at Zenner, closer to Land's End (r) (20086)  
 9.00 Daytime on Two  
 2.00 News and weather (1058222) followed by Storytime: Desperate for a Dog (r) (7440038)  
 2.15 Impressions. A day at RAF Coltishall in Norfolk (r) (7449322)  
 2.25 Songs of Praise from Olney (r). (Ceefax) (s) (6376062)  
 3.00 News and weather (824777) followed by Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters. Eamonn Holmes presents further coverage of the match between Gary Wilkinson and Alain Robidoux from the Wembley Conference Centre (7016854) 3.30 News and weather, regional news and weather (729238)  
 4.00 One in Four. Mik Scarlet asks why it is so difficult for disabled musicians to break in to the contemporary music business (61)  
 4.30 Behind the Headlines with Jane Corbin (s) (45)  
 5.00 Cricket: Second Test. Peter Williams introduces highlights of the match between New Zealand and England (6067)  
 5.30 Film 22 with Barry Norman (r) (s) (25)  
 6.00 A Question of Sport (r). (Ceefax) (s) (38)  
 6.30 100 Great Sporting Moments. Torvill and Dean perform their famous routine in the 1983 world ice skating championship (729238)  
 6.40 Det It! The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. Will and his girlfriend Kathleen are trapped in a basement after an earthquake (526860)  
 7.05 Det It! Open to Question. Bernadette McAleavy, former Northern Ireland MP, faces questions from a studio audience (251865)  
 7.40 Voices from the Past: Black Majesty - Africa 1838 (h/w). Lawrence Thaw's 11,000-mile safari across Africa (683241)  
 8.10 Horizons: Malaria. The scourge of Malaria (s) (25)  
 © CHOICE: Malaria kills more people than any other parasitic disease. Some 40 per cent of the world's population is exposed to malaria and the victims include two million children a year. In the early 1990s a Colombian chemist, Dr Manuel Patarroyo, claimed to have come up with the answer - the first effective vaccine. But his findings and reputation have come under intense scrutiny from the Western scientific establishment. Five years after Dr Patarroyo published his results the debate still rages. Is the vaccine one of the most important scientific advances of the century or a false promise? Teresa Hunt's film is a fair-minded attempt to weigh the evidence. Dr Patarroyo is eloquent and persuasive but has so far failed to kill the doubts. Among the sceptics is our own Medical Research Council. Underlining the affair is the suspicion that the first world is doubtless the competence of third world science. (Ceefax) (s) (147115)



A hero debunked: Daniel Massey talks to his parrot (9.00pm)

9.00 Bye Bye Columbus  
 © CHOICE: Any idea that we should be celebrating Christopher Columbus, 500 years after his famous voyage to the Caribbean, as some sort of hero is strongly contested in this debunking drama by the playwright Peter Barnes. In the version according to Barnes, Columbus (Daniel Massey) is a cynical materialist, determined to take his 10 per cent cut of the new world's riches. He manages to persuade the Spanish royal: Ferdinand and Isabella (Alex Jennings and Harriet Walter), to back his trip, only to discover that they are just as greedy and unprincipled as he is. When he gets to the Caribbean he deserts his partner (Timothy West) and is convinced that Cuba is part of India. A gloomily lit studio drama has Columbus as a disgruntled old man telling the tale in flashback to his parrot (voiced by Jack Shepherd). If Barnes is right every school history book should be immediately rewritten. (Ceefax) (s) (737574)

9.50 10 x 10: Back to Edens. A series of short films by new directors. Tonight's is a comedy thriller by Deborah Collard (r) (s) (887067)

10.00 The Palibearers' Revue. Comedy and magic with Jerry Sadowitz and Deneen Darrell (s) (92203)

10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (72222)

11.15 The Late Show (r) (402357) 11.35 Weather (507553)

12.00 Open University. Living with Technology: A Matter of Resource (5620565)

12.25am Behind the Headlines (r) (8675568). Ends at 1.00

12.30am Sportsworld Extra. Tony Francis introduces highlights of the weekend's football (299868)

1.30 Film: Charley Vanel (1973). Tough, taut thriller starring Walter Matthau as a small-time bank robber who inadvertently steals from the Mafia. With Joe Don Baker. Directed by Don (Dirty Harry) Siegel (54013)

3.30 Reap the Whirlwind. First episode of a new historical drama set in Cape Town during the early part of the 19th century (564533)

4.30 Stage One with the indie band Happy Mondays (s) (44094)

5.30 ITN Morning News (56556). Ends at 6.00

6.00 No Job for a Lady: What Care? What Compensation? Perceptive comedy starring Penelope Keith as a Labour MP. (Ceefax) (s) (9777)

6.30 World Health: Breast Implants - Paying the Price. The current affairs programme investigates fresh evidence on the safety of breast implant products (5162)

6.40 Et C.L.D.: Nothing is Forever. Cheerful and understanding comedy series about Britons living on the Costa del Sol. Mercer (Kenneth Cranham) is suspected of stealing a diamond necklace. With John Bird and Amanda Redman. (Ceefax) (s) (1606)

10.00 News at Ten. (Ceefax) Weather (238357) 10.30 Thames News (739570)

10.40 Film: Blackout (1985). Predictable suspense thriller starring Richard Widmark as a retired policeman doggedly tracking an amnesiac (Keith Carradine) who is the chief suspect in a murder investigation. Kathleen Quinlan provides the love interest. Directed by Douglas Hickox (29986425)

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